Rev. Isaac Thompson, M.

MINUTES.

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

1876.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

OF IRELAND,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1876.

Londonderry:
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1876.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod in Ireland.

SESSION I.

BELFAST, MONDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1876, SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M.

THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after a discourse from Ps. xcvi. 6—"Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Constitution.

The following is the roll of members:— Roll.

THE REV. JOSEPH FRAZER HURST, MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Hart *.....	William Dunlop*.....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
Jas. D. Houston, B.A.*	William Ramsay*....	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	Francis Kane.....	Dervock & Ballymoney.
Isaac Thompson, M.A.	William Smyth—*Alt.*, Jas. Stewart.....	Drimbolg.
.....	William Kennedy*....	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D.....	Robert Anderson.....	Kellswater.
William Toland†.....	Thomas Loughridge..	Kilraughts.
.....	.....	Ringrash.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage....	William Stewart.....	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas.....	John Carlile*.....	Ballybay.
William M'Knight§...	Robert Woods.....	Ballylane.
.....	John W. Hawthorne...	Dromore.
.....	.....	Dublin.
George Lillie*.....	.....	Fairview.
William S. Ferguson..	.....	Grange.
.....	William Morrow*.....	Lisdonnan.
Joseph F. Hurst.....	William Niblock*.....	Loughbrickland.
Alex. M. S. Lyons....	Adam M'Neilly*.....	Newry.
Thomas Hart*.....	.....	Rathfriland.

Roll.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick*.....	William J. Galway....	Bailliesmills.
William Russell.....	Samuel Kennedy.....	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor..	John Potts.....	Belfast.
Torrens Boyd.....	Richard Copeland....	Dromara.
Matthew Hodge.....	John Hewitt*.....	Killinchy.
Thomas Houston, D.D.	James Musgrave.....	Knockbracken.
.....	.....	Larne.
Wm. J. Maxwell, M.A.‡*	.....	Liverpool.
Robert Allen.	John Moore*.....	Newtownards.

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland....	James Gibson.....	Bready.
.....	.....	Convoy.
Matthew Neill§.....	William Philips.....	Faughan.
William Dick, M.A...	John Blair*.....	Limavady.
Robert Nevin.....	Joseph Hall.....	Londonderry.
.....	Thomas M'Farlane*..	Mulvin.
R. A. M'Farlane, B.D.†	William Tait.....	Stranorlar.

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, of Geelong, Australia, and the Rev. James Martin, M.A., M.D., missionary in Syria, are reckoned members of the Eastern Presbytery.

I. It was intimated, on behalf of the Southern Presbytery, that since last meeting the Rev. William M'Knight had been ordained in Ballylane. His name was accordingly inserted in the roll.

II. It was intimated, on behalf of the Eastern Presbytery, that the Rev. William J. Maxwell had been installed in Liverpool since last meeting; and his name was inserted in the roll of that Presbytery.

III. It was intimated, on behalf of the Western Presbytery, that the Rev. Matthew Neill had been, since last meeting, ordained in Faughan as assistant and successor to the Rev. J. P. Sweeney, and his name was added to the roll.

Mr. Russell chosen Moderator.

IV. It was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Dr. Dick, and unanimously agreed to, that the Rev. W. Russell be Moderator for the ensuing year. Mr. Russell took the chair and addressed the court.

V. A commission by the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland to the Rev. James Dick, M.A., and Mr. John Cunningham, Ruling Elder, as a deputation to this Synod, was put in and read. Mr. Dick was present, and took his seat in court as a consultative member.

* Not present when the Court was constituted.
† Absent from all the sessions.
‡ Installed since last meeting.
§ Ordained since last meeting.

VI. The hours of meeting were arranged to be from ten *a.m.* till three *p.m.*, and from seven in the evening till such time as occasion seems to require. **Hours of Meeting.**

VII. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee of Bills—to meet at nine o'clock to-morrow morning. **Committee of Bills.**

VIII. Messrs. Hurst, Chancellor, and Toland were appointed a Committee to prepare an Order of Business—to report at ten o'clock to-morrow morning. **Committee on Order of Business.**

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 13th June, 1876, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. G. Douglas conducting devotional exercises.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and approved.

IX. The Committee on the order of business submitted their report, which was adopted.

X. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Londonderry on the Monday after the second Sabbath of June, 1877, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening. **Next Meeting.**

XI. The Committee of Bills reported that they had licensed a memorial from Peter Reynolds, praying Synod to appoint a Committee for the purpose of investigating the whole case of the matters in dispute between him on the one hand, and the Session of Belfast congregation and the Eastern Presbytery on the other. Synod was informed by the representatives of the Belfast congregation members of court that Mr. Reynolds, instead of complying with Synod's decision of last year, had withdrawn from his connection with the congregation. In these circumstances Synod saw no reason for entertaining the present application. **P. Reynolds.**

XII. The editor of *The Covenanter* reported that there was no falling off in the number of subscribers—rather a slight increase—but that it was very desirable, and even necessary, to have the payments of subscriptions made earlier in the year. Synod enjoined on ministers and agents for the periodical to make efforts to obtain an enlarged circulation, and also enjoined that, inasmuch as the rule of payment in advance seems to be neglected by some, the full payment in each year should be made, not later than the time of Synod's meeting. **Periodical.**

XIII. Rev. R. Allen (Convener), Rev. A. M. S. Lyons, and Mr. Potts were appointed a Committee for inspecting records of Presbyteries—to report on Thursday.

XIV. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee on Preachers' appointments—to report on Thursday.

Serving on Juries.

XV. The subject of serving on juries was brought up, and the minute of last year respecting it read. Mr. Chancellor now moved the adoption of the report embodied in that minute. The motion was seconded by the Rev. C. K. Toland.

Moved as an amendment by Dr. Houston, seconded by Rev. G. Lillie—"That it is inexpedient at present to make any alteration on the well-known and lengthened general position of this Church with reference to serving on juries."

After lengthened discussion the motion and amendment were put to the vote, when the motion was carried by a large majority.

Dr. Houston desired his dissent to be recorded, in his own name and for such as may adhere to him. Mr. Musgrave subsequently gave in his name as an adherent.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 13th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, the Rev. R. Allen conducting devotional exercises.

The minutes of the morning sederunt were read and confirmed.

Report For. and Jew. Mis

XVI. The annual report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Lyons, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The following is the Report:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SYRIAN MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1876.

In presenting to Synod another annual report of the Mission in Syria, in which our two Synods in Ireland and Scotland are engaged, in fraternal co-operation with the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in America, we have to record the ordinary difficulties and trials, and, amidst these, some encouraging tokens of continued Divine favour and blessing. We notice, first of all,

THE CONTINUED PERSECUTION OF CONVERTS, AND PRESENT STATE OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

The position of the Turkish authorities, higher and lower, towards Protestant missionaries in Syria, and the work in which they are engaged, is one of embittered hostility; and were it not for the accumulated difficulties which surround the throne of the Sultan, and the thickening calamities which threaten the speedy downfal of the empire, there seems to be

no doubt that Mohammedan intolerance would vent itself in the entire suppression of missionary operations throughout Syria, and in other parts of the Turkish dominions. The persecution of the three converts, teachers in connexion with the Mission, has been continued. The two who had deserted from the army were recaptured, and, with others who were taken, were subjected to maltreatment—their chief and only crime, in the view of their persecutors, being that they professed the Protestant faith, and that they resolutely refused, even when subjected to threatening and personal violence, to abjure the faith of Christ and become Moslems. The two teachers, soon after they were taken, were allowed again to escape, through the connivance of their officers. Notwithstanding the energetic representations and remonstrances of the missionaries of various names in Syria, and the applications of the representatives of different Christian Governments to the late Sultan and his Council on their behalf, their enlargement has been withheld; and, contrary to promises repeatedly given, they have been exposed to insult and wrong. *Jedid Yusef* has, for so far, escaped being called to active military service, but he is obliged to remove from place to place, and to visit the missionaries secretly, under cover, through dread of being arrested and dealt with as a deserter. The latest intelligence, sent early in May, respecting *Daoud Sulieman*, mentioned that he was still in Adrianople; that for some time he has not been oppressed and actively persecuted, as he was formerly; and that he has conversations with his companions about the Gospel.

Report For. and Jew. Miss.

Teachers retaken and again escape.

Daoud Sulieman.

Since our last report was presented, a "BLUE BOOK," in reference to "Religious Persecution in Turkey," has been issued, by order of the British Government. This contains full and clear statements of the case of the Ansairiyeh converts, of various memorials and correspondence on the subject, of the reception of deputations by her Majesty's Ministers, and of the steps taken by them to procure the liberation of the oppressed, and the carrying out of the edict of liberty, which was granted by Turkey as a fundamental part of the Treaty with the Western Powers. A careful perusal of these official documents furnishes very satisfactory evidence of the honest intentions of the British Government to do what was in their power to have the injuries inflicted on the converts redressed, and of their vigilance and activity in this matter. It shows, at the same time, that no dependence is to be placed in the promises and engagements of Turkish rulers, and that, impelled by the spiritual heads of Islamism, and yielding to the intense fanaticism of the Mohammedan people, they are ready to perpetrate injury and

Government "Blue Book."

violence upon Christians to the utmost, and are only restrained by the fear of provoking the vengeance of the Christian Powers. Very recently there was a serious dread of the massacre of Christians in various parts of Syria, by an outburst of Turkish fanaticism; and at one time our brethren in Latakia, and those under their charge, shared to some extent the general alarm that their lives were imperilled from this quarter. The opportune appearance of a war-vessel in the sea-road at the time served to check the ferocity of the bigotted Turkish people. Our beloved brethren have been hitherto enabled to prosecute their important work unmolested, maintaining calm and unshaken confidence in the providence and grace of Him who causes the wrath of man to praise Him, and who sets restraining bounds to the remnant of his wrath.

Fear of Massacre in Syria.

The present confusions and tottering condition of the Turkish empire are pregnant with solemn instruction, and full of hope for the cause of truth and for the future enlargement and success of Christian missions in the East. They show the righteous retribution of the Moral Governor of the nations for injuries inflicted on His servants, and they hold out the prospect of the downfal, at no distant day, of an intolerant, persecuting Power, and the consequent opening of a wide door and effectual for the diffusion of the Gospel of Christ.

Lessons from the present state of Turkey

Some of the organs of public opinion in various countries now declare that the refusal of an audience by the late Sultan to the deputation of the Evangelical Alliance, when they visited Constantinople on the subject of the wrongs of the Syrian and Armenian converts, with the continued persecutions carried on by the Turkish authorities, have served to stimulate the rebellion of the Christian subjects of the Porte in some places, and to convince the Western Powers more and more that the execution of right and justice is not to be expected from the rulers of a system so essentially immoral and so inveterately hostile to Christianity. Whatever State-policy there is in Britain assuming its present position of maintaining the integrity of the Turkish empire, and thus of protracting its downfal, and however British influence may, on this account, prevail to check active persecution, it cannot but be regretted that our great nation should, even apparently, stand in the way of the speedy accomplishment of the doom denounced in inspired prophecy against a system which, from the beginning, has been a cruel oppressor of the Church of Christ, and whose complete removal is indispensable to the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth. In the prospect of still greater commotions in Turkey, and of impending trials and dangers to brethren dear to us, let us manifest the most

Sympathy and Prayer for Missionaries and Converts.

cordial sympathy for them and for the converts, young in the Christian profession, who are called to suffer for the truth's sake. Let us continue instant in prayer that the Lord Himself would be their refuge and hope in the day of trial, and that He would so prosper their labours, even in troublous times, that the wall of the city shall be built up. Report For. and Jew. Miss.

DR. MARTIN'S WORK SINCE HIS RETURN TO SYRIA.

A short time before our last meeting of Synod, our esteemed missionary, Dr. Martin, accompanied with his wife, again reached the field of the Syrian Mission, and throughout the year he has been mercifully sustained in health and vigour, and enabled to engage in important labours in prosecution of the objects of the mission. His immediate work on his return consisted in his resuming Arabic studies, under a native teacher, in which he made such proficiency that he was able to deliver occasional addresses in that language at the prayer-meetings on Sabbath and week evenings, and conduct a complete evening service in the end of last year at Swedeah, and, since that time, to engage in various services in the congregation in Latakia, both at the communion and on other occasions. He has, besides, rendered occasional assistance in medical practice, both in Latakia and elsewhere. Dr. Martin.

SCHOOL IN ANTIOCH.

When the missionaries at Latakia, together with Mr. Easson, after consultation, agreed to select ANTIOCH as a station, and to establish a mission school or schools in that city, it was felt to be desirable that a medical missionary should be located there. As Dr. Metheny could not well remove with his family, Dr. Martin was asked to undertake the conducting of the Antioch station, to which he readily consented. Various circumstances, such as the existence of quarantine on account of cholera in some parts of Syria, and the state of health of his family, prevented Dr. Martin from removing at once to Antioch, and from setting the mission school in active operation. In the prospect, too, of Mr. Beattie's visit to America, it was afterwards considered desirable that he should not, for some time, go with his family to reside in Antioch, as his services to the mission at Latakia might be required. In the end of December last he went to Antioch and rented a house for the school, and engaged two teachers; and he has since visited that city, and made inspection of the work of the teachers and the progress of the pupils. Antioch.

At the commencement there was a gratifying attendance of children of different races—native Christians, Fellahin, and Jews—and the progress of the scholars was as good as could have been anticipated; but, as is usual in such cases, the Opening of the School.

Report For. and Jew. Miss.

opposition of the spiritual leaders of the population was roused against the teaching of Scriptural truth, and this led to the temporary withdrawal of a number of children. It is especially pleasing to be enabled now to report that the pupils, at the date of the last communication, numbered fifty, and that of these 10 are Jews, 3 Fellahin, 35 Greek Church, and 2 Armenians. The teachers conduct a Sabbath-school, and it is attended, not only by children, but also by several adults, parents of the children who frequent the daily school. The pupils are taught daily lessons from the Scriptures, as well as subjects of secular learning, and those who are able to read are taught to commit the Shorter Catechism. We cannot but regard with deep interest the opening of a mission school, under the superintendence of our missionary, in this important city, where the Christian name was first given to the disciples, and which was the early centre of Gentile Christianity. It is, besides, gratifying that Dr. Martin may there find a door of access to the scattered Jewish people, which could not be obtained in other parts of the field hitherto occupied by the Syrian Mission. The missionary speaks of the desirableness of employing a third teacher, of superior qualifications, in order to carry on successfully the work which has been so auspiciously begun. Whatever additional expense this would incur should be readily undertaken by the Church, if an able and devoted teacher can be procured; and earnest prayer should be continually offered by the friends of the mission that the seed of Scriptural truth here sown may spring up and bear abundant fruit.

Sabbath-school

Jews accessible in Antioch.

Special Meeting of Joint Mission Com.

In the end of March last a special meeting of the Joint Mission Committee of the Irish and Scottish Synods was held in Belfast to consider a lengthened communication which had been received from Dr. Martin. Among other matters, it was unanimously agreed—

Resolutions.

"1. That we rejoice in the success that has already attended the opening of a school in Antioch by Dr. Martin, and we agree, on behalf of the Irish and Scottish Synods, to undertake its entire support.

"2. That Dr. Martin be recommended to visit Antioch as soon as possible, and make a careful investigation of the field, and report to us fully as to the facilities it is likely to afford for mission work among the different classes of the inhabitants, and as to how far access may be had to the Ansairiyeh people in the town and neighbourhood.

"3. That Dr. Martin be requested to prepare and submit to us a report on the different school systems that are in operation in Syria, pointing out the probable expenses of each, and their relative bearing on the work of Christian missions.

"4. That if the prospect of missionary operations in Antioch be sufficiently encouraging, we would approve of Dr. Martin's removal there in due time, to establish and take charge of a separate mission

station, to be supported by, and to be in immediate connexion with the Irish and Scottish Synods. Should such a removal take place, the Joint Committees expressed their earnest concern that our cordial relations with the American brethren shall continue unaltered, and that Dr. Martin shall maintain the closest intimacy, brotherly interchange, and hearty co-operation with them as heretofore." Report For. and Jew. Miss.

He was likewise instructed, before making a permanent residence in Antioch, to render assistance in conducting missionary operations in Latakia, during Mr. Beattie's absence in America, so far as this can be done with due regard to the claims of Antioch.

The Joint Committees, at their meeting, empowered Mr. John M'Donald, elder, during his proposed visit to America, to confer as their representative with the American Mission Committee in relation to arrangements for conducting and extending the Syrian Mission. An invitation was likewise sent through the Convener to Rev. Joseph Beattie, Latakia, to visit Ireland and Scotland, on his way to America or on his return to Syria, and address a few meetings in several congregations of the Church on the subject of this mission. He replied to this invitation, when in Liverpool, that he would, if at all practicable, make the visit requested on his way back to Syria in the ensuing autumn. Mr. M'Donald's Commission to America. Mr. Beattie's Visit.

EVANGELISTIC WORK OF THE MISSION.

The work of the mission, in its various departments, has, during the past year, gone forward without impediment, and with a considerable measure of success. The boarding school in Latakia has been attended by a larger number of pupils than at any former period. Miss Wylie has been sent out as an additional teacher by the Mission Committee in America, and has already displayed not a little fitness for the work. The mission and school buildings at the station in Swedeah, under the care of Mr. Easson have been advanced nearly to completion.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in Latakia on Sabbath, the 9th of April last, Dr. Martin and Mr. Easson taking part with Dr. Metheny in the administration. Fifty-eight persons communicated, nine of these for the first time. Two of these were the children of church members; three were from the Greek church, and three from the Fellahin girls in the school. One of these is sister of one of the chiefs in the neighbourhood of Bahmra, and, on account of her position, was much afraid to confess her religion publicly, but said she would if the teachers wished it. Miss Crawford, to whom she spoke, said that was between her and God—she would have to decide it herself. At the last moment, she presented herself for examination, Communion at Latakia.

Report For. and Jew. Miss.

and from that time she seemed to have a weight lifted from her mind. These three were baptized on Friday. Through some negligence of the messenger sent to the mountains, the brethren there did not get word about the Communion until too late; and, in consequence, some twenty-eight communicants were unable to attend. The occasion was felt by all who took part in it, to be the season of spiritual refreshment and blessing from the Lord's presence.

FUNDS.

The congregational collections, donations, and other contributions received from the Church during the past year have met the expenditure of the Mission, but have left only a small balance on hand: indeed, the balance would have been in the other side, had it not been that the balance due by the late Treasurer, on account of the Syrian Mission and the schools, has been lately paid by the executors. Several of the congregations, such as Knockbracken, Belfast, Newry, Creevagh, Bailliesmills, and Dervock and Ballymoney, have evinced an interest in the work of Scriptural education and training in the Mission Schools in Syria, by forwarding special contributions for this object. The congregation of *Kilraughts* has, as formerly, sent forward its annual contribution of *Ten Guineas*, to be appropriated to the training of a convert as a native minister in connexion with this Mission. We record, with special gratification, that the young persons connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of Geelong, Australia, lately forwarded to the secretary the sum of £11 5s, which they had collected in aid of the Syrian schools, together with a like sum which they had raised in aid of the cause of Spanish evangelization. Such an interest taken in our Foreign Mission by brethren on the opposite side of the globe, and such Christian liberality shown by a small congregation, whose worldly means are very limited, and who, considering their circumstances, contribute much more generously for the support of the ministry among themselves than any of our home congregations, furnish an example to the Church generally, which should invite others to self-denied effort, and the devising of liberal things for the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth. In the latter part of the past year, *Mr. David Musgrave*, an esteemed member of the congregation of Knockbracken, handed to the trustees of Synod, the sum of *One Hundred Pounds*, as a donation to the Syrian Mission. This money has been invested, the interest of which, according to the expressed wish of the donor, will be applied annually to supplement the collection of the congregation in behalf of the Syrian Mission. While we gratefully

Kilraughts contribution to train a native ministry.

Geelong collection for Syrian schools.

Mr. Musgrave's donation of £100.

record these instances of considerate regard for the due support and extension of this Mission, we express the hope that many throughout the Church will be led to manifest the like liberal spirit. Should Dr. Martin take up his permanent abode in Antioch, and that city become the centre of evangelization of our two Synods in Ireland and Scotland, then it is plain that a greatly increased expenditure on account of the Mission will be required—for the support of teachers in the schools, for the rent and erection of buildings, for books, and for the training of future labourers in various departments of the work. Considering our solemnly-pledged engagement and responsibility to prosecute energetically and perseveringly this important Mission, we should esteem it a high privilege to be called to dedicate of our worldly substance to this good cause—to abound in prayer for its prosperity, and to send forth as they may be required prepared instruments for making known God's way of salvation to perishing men. Besides, an increase in the annual collections from the different congregations of the Church, and annual subscriptions and legacies from the richer members, which are needed for the missionary's salary, may we not reasonably expect that, in all our congregations, special contributions shall be raised for supporting the Syrian schools connected with the Mission? Like efforts as are made in some congregations for this object might readily be engaged in, to some extent, in others throughout the whole Church; and in no labours could the youth of Christian families be better employed, with spiritual profit to themselves, and benefit to the Church, than in raising funds for sustaining the work of converting the heathen to Christ, and of spreading abroad the savour of the Redeemer's glorious name.

Report For. and Jew. Miss.

Need of increased liberality.

Support of the work at Antioch.

In conclusion, from this review of work and mercies during the past year—from the consideration of the solemn aspects of Providence, in judgments sent or threatened upon wicked systems, and persecuting Powers—and from the loud call addressed to us from many quarters, to live above the world, and overcome it by faith, and to subordinate earthly things to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, let us go forward, in the spirit of fervent prayer, and of true devotedness, to prosecute a work which will bring glory to God in the highest, and will yet, in its blessed results, fill all nations with spiritual joy and gladness. Let us scatter plentifully the good seed of precious truth and Scriptural principles, assured that by the promised showers of the Spirit, it shall speedily ripen into a wide-spread and prosperous harvest. To us is now loudly addressed the command of Zion's exalted

Conclusion.

King, to which we should be prepared willingly to respond—at whatever effort or sacrifice—"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. For thou shalt break forth on the right hand, and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited."—Is. liv., 2, 3.

Report Col. Mission.

XVII. The Report of the Colonial Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Douglas, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The following is the Report:—

COLONIAL MISSION REPORT.

The letters with which we have been favoured from our colonial brethren during the past year contain substantially the same information we have again and again laid before Synod. It is cause of gratitude to the Church's Head that the personnel of our mission staff remains the same—unbroken by death—although the appointment of our esteemed brethren covers well-nigh half a century. Seldom do we meet as a Synod without having to mourn the removal from time to eternity of some of the fathers or brethren who laboured side by side with us in the home field, but a lengthened and healthful ministry is granted to our foreign brethren. How long we may have to congratulate ourselves on this favour is known only to God. Our senior missionary has gone considerably beyond the "three score years and ten," and although it may be said of him in a sense, "His eye is not dim nor his natural force abated," yet the days of infirmity must be nigh at hand. All our brethren have passed the high noon of life, and are sinking into the evening and night.

Mr. Lawson.

Even one of the last ordained and youngest in years—we refer to Mr. Lawson, of Barnesville—is suffering at present from debility, and needs absolute rest for a time from his public work to strengthen his paralysed frame. But the continued enjoyment so far of life and power by our beloved brethren is cause of thankfulness, especially when we consider the difficulty of obtaining fresh supplies for the field. Whilst

Losses.

death has been sparing the ministers, the congregations have had, in many cases, to mourn serious loss amongst the elders and membership. Men who were pillars in the Church, and whose moral influence extended far and wide throughout the land, have been removed, leaving blanks, in many cases, that will not be easily filled. But, whilst our brethren write grievously of the Church's loss by such bereavements, they triumph in the confidence and hope that gathers around their deathbed—the "joy and crown" in the Lord of His servants—

bright polished jewels for Emmanuel's crown; and He with whom is the residue of the Spirit can "take the children instead of the fathers, and make them noble princes in the earth." It has been so in connexion with the return of the dispensation of the Lord's Supper: a good and promising accession to the Church has in several cases been made. Report Col. Mission.

"To their power, and beyond their power," our missionaries labour in order to supply their respective congregations with the Word of Life, and also the mission stations under the care of Presbytery, as well as the many openings, public and private, afforded them in the Providence of God to make known the precious truth. Still they feel that a burden is laid on them they are hardly able to bear through the paucity of labourers, the wide extent of the field, and the clamant call of scattered brethren for supply of ordinances; and they mourn at heart to feel that promising stations are famishing for lack of ministration which they are all unable to give in proportion to the necessities of the case. Our senior missionary continues to preach in Horton one Sabbath in the month, but this amount of service is altogether insufficient to maintain a healthful congregational existence, and especially to conserve the youth of the Church from wandering into indiscriminate fellowship, which tends to denominational extinction. The other brethren continue to nourish the stations planted, according to their ability, but this is becoming increasingly more difficult. We almost despair of any success in calling the ministers at home to give themselves to this inviting field; our appeals in the past have had so little effect, our necessities for ministers at home are now so great, and our immediate prospects in this line so dark; yet it comes to this, that with the weight of advancing years gathering on our brethren there, and the powerful influences (especially on the young) to treat lightly the principles of our Father's testimony, if help do not arise from some quarter, the labours of years to establish Reformed Presbyterianism in those lands will be lost; and this throws a solemn responsibility on the Church that has been honoured to take such hopeful and successful initiatory steps. Encouragements. Horton.

The motion to license Mr. Toland, an elder of the Church in New Brunswick, and a candidate for licensure, to preach the Gospel, which was referred to the commission for advice, has been arrested by the appointment of Mr. T. to an agency in connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society throughout the lower provinces. His examination and trials before the Presbytery were considered highly satisfactory, but the field that has opened up for the exercise of his talents in connexion with the Bible Society is wide and promising, and, Mr. John Toland.

Report Col. Mission.

whilst any hope that may have been created by the proposa of an increase to the staff of our ministers is for the time overturned, we trust the Master will honour this member and officer of our Church in doing great good in the extensive field that is hereby opened up to him; and our prayer must continue to ascend with greater earnestness and perseverance and faith that the Lord of the harvest would from some quarter send forth labourers into this ripe harvest field. We are not aware of any other candidates for the ministry meanwhile springing up within the bounds of our Colonial Presbytery, so that our hope of immediate supply must be on the Church at home or the sister Church in the United States.

Proposed Union with U.S. Synod.

The proposal for Synodal connexion with our brethren in the States by our Presbytery in the Northern provinces has not yet been finally issued. A committee of our Colonial Presbytery has been appointed and re-appointed to correspond with leading members of the States Synod, and communications of the most free and cordial kind have been passing. It would seem that the brethren in the United States, so far as corresponded with, seem anxious to encourage the relation, and if matters could be arranged in agreeableness with the feelings and the interests of all concerned, it would seem, in many respects, to be the most favourable relation for the interests of the Church. But we can safely leave the matter to the wisdom of the brethren more immediately interested in the change, who know all the bearings of the case, and rest confident that they will be actuated by the purest motives in whatever decision may be made. We have all in every relation but one supreme ruling motive—the glory of our Master, and, as this matter intimately bears on His glory, we are confident that wise counsels and many prayers will bring it to the right issue. We would have been able to speak more definitely on this matter, which has now engaged the attention of the Church for a considerable time, had it not been that, through indisposition, the meeting of our Colonial Presbytery was unusually small in March last, when the result of negotiations with the U. S. Church was to be presented, and some decision reached. In the circumstances, the court could only defer judgment and re-appoint the committee. It is hoped, however, that at the meeting of Presbytery in September the brethren will be in a position to come to a more definite finding.

Need of Help.

Meanwhile, it surely becomes us to extend all the encouragement and help we can to the brethren who have been ordained by us to these distant fields. They have served the Church and served the Lord and Master long and well. Both by the pulpit and the Press they have laboured, and still labour, to

disseminate the truths to which they pledged themselves at ordination; and, in the case of those whose physical strength is beginning to fail, the pen is all the more active, that the condition of the body compels to rest. Times of unusual depression in business have been passing over the colonies, as well as the commercial world at home, telling indirectly and seriously, more especially upon those situated in towns. It is no time to grow cold and negligent toward these distant branches of our Church; but, like a true foster-parent, we should continue to aid and support these daughters of our Zion, resting by faith upon God's own Word of promise to the cause of truth and of right. We can hardly understand how sensitive we would be to anything bordering on indifference or neglect by the mother Church until we were thrown into the circumstances of these expatriated brethren; and, whilst the Church at home has cheerfully given of her means to aid in the maintenance of ordinances in these distant dependencies, yet, had the right spirit been amongst us, our Church in these lands had not been the struggling and fainting existence she is, but had had accretions of ministers and members that had made her a strong and widespread power for good in the land. We must ever esteem it a high honour and privilege to be allowed to take any part, however small, in strengthening the cause of our Lord and Master in these remote dependencies. Report Col. Mission.

The annual report of the congregation in Geelong, which appears in the last issue of the *Covenanter*, contains full information concerning the condition of our brother, Mr. Moore, and his congregation. It is truly cheering and encouraging to read of the work done by the minister and Church in Geelong. Such a thoroughly equipped congregation, with everything necessary to congregational prosperity, and the spirit of all so liberal, self-denied, and devoted. It seems a model congregation. The pastor was enabled to conduct a communion amongst his people once more on the first Sabbath in April, and, though he approached the communion in bodily indisposition, yet, as has been often experienced by God's servants, his strength was proportionate to the day of his heavy labour. The gathering to the communion reminds us of communion on Covenanting ground in these lands in the olden time. Not only the members of our Church dwelling in the immediate neighbourhood, but members at a distance of some ninety miles, and even in old age, overcame the difficulties of the way and sat down at the Lord's table under the banner of His covenant love. We sincerely reciprocate the hope and prayer that this and every ordinance dispensed may prove a time of Geelong.

Report Col. Mission.

refreshing and strengthening from the presence of the Lord. Here, as well as in North America, death has been doing his wasting work, but a spirit of fresh and youthful energy and devotedness seems to fill up the gap. It is something to have the name of a Reformed Presbyterian Church in that wide and hopeful land, populated chiefly with immigrants from all parts of the world, but sad that it is only a spot of that great Continent that is yet occupied by us. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and we feel this bitterly regarding the oft-proposed addition to our ministerial agency in Australia. Here again the lack of men leads us to cry "By whom?" Small beginnings have often been the origin of great results, and slow growth has often characterized the march of the grandest issues. We are working side by side in these little organizations with a great army of the Lord that is going forward to break up the darkness of our world's night, and though we but plant, as it were, a few stars in the firmament, yet the combined light of the countless stars will eventually overcome the darkness. It has been said, and it is a heavy charge, that had the Christian Church risen to her great evangelical mission to our world, the whole earth had been by this time filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. We cannot recall the misspent past save by redeeming the living present.

"Let the dead past bury its dead;
Act, act in the living present."

The voice of a faithful testimony to Christ our Lord is yet raised by us North, South, East, and West, and "if we should hold our peace the very stones would cry out."

A supplemental grant was made to the Colonial Missionaries, same as in some years past—viz., £10 to each of the ministerial brethren in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and £20 to Mr. Moore, should the state of the funds permit.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 14th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and was constituted with prayer, Rev. T. Boyd conducting devotional exercises.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

Convoy Case.

XVIII. The Report of the Commission in the Convoy case was read. Synod approved of the course pursued by the

Commission and of the final disposal made of the case, and discharged the Commission.*

XIX. The Home Mission Report was read. Its adoption was moved by the Secretary, seconded by Dr. Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.* Report of Home Mission.

The report follows :—

HOME MISSION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1876.

On the 1st of July of last year the Rev. William John Maxwell was installed over the small congregation which had been worshipping for some years in the St. Ann's Assembly-rooms in Liverpool. The heartiness and energy with which both minister and congregation set themselves to encounter the great difficulties of their situation, and the spirit of hopefulness and determination which pervaded them from the first, promised well for the success of the enterprise, and led the Church in this country to manifest the deepest interest in their proceedings. In the course of a few months a suitable and valuable church property, in Hall-lane, was secured by them, at a cost of above £1,700. This property has been duly secured to the Synod; and in the month of January the house was opened for the regular services of the congregation. Since that time the attendance upon public worship and the membership have both largely increased. By the indefatigable exertions both of pastor and people a very considerable proportion of the debt has already been paid, and, with the liberal assistance of the Church, it is hoped that the remaining encumbrance may be gradually cleared off at no very distant date. Liverpool.

On the 15th of March last Mr. William M'Knight was ordained to the ministry, and installed as pastor of the congregation of Ballylane, with very hopeful indications of general progress and advantage to the Church. Ballylane.

A unanimous call from the congregation of Garvagh has been accepted by the Rev. James Littlejohn, and his induction is to take place in the first week in July. These promising settlements will, of course, considerably augment the liabilities of the Home Mission Fund. Garvagh.

The congregations generally continue to manifest their

* The names of the members constituting this Commission appeared in the Appendix to the printed Minutes of last year, but there was no reference to it in the body of the Minutes. There should have been, but for an oversight of the Clerk, arising from the circumstance that the case was taken up and the appointment of the Commission made in *interloquitur*. The whole, of course, is engrossed in the manuscript Minutes. The Clerk alone is responsible for this explanation.

Report of Home Mission.

deep sense of the great importance of this fund, and their interest in its success. The contributions are sent in with commendable promptness and regularity, and, on the whole, are larger than those given for the support of any other mission. During the past year they reached about the average amount of preceding years. It must, however, be borne in mind that the proceeds of congregational collections alone would not suffice to meet the current expenses. Without the special collections from missionary associations in a few congregations, and the interest accruing from bequests and donations that have been invested, the annual grants at the present time could not be paid. As other grants that have been sanctioned prospectively come into action the small balance remaining will be absorbed, and the discrepancy still further increased. Under ordinary circumstances the annual collections may not be expected to realize much more than their present amount. If, then, the Church would continue to assist weak congregations in securing the services of settled pastors, and thus stimulate and strengthen the healthful tendency towards the enlargement of our boundaries, our congregations must resort more generally than at present to some special means of providing the funds necessary for this purpose. In fact every congregation should have a distinct organization whereby the zeal and activities of the young would be made available for the sustentation and growth of our mission work, and by which our members would be trained to more frequent and systematic giving for the cause of Christ.

Congregational Collections.

Rule diminishing Grants annually.

In accordance with the decision of last Synod, confirming the arrangement of 1873, all the old grants from the Home Mission have been diminished by £5. This has resulted in a saving of £20 for the year. But, as the reports of presbyteries have not yet been handed in, it is impossible to state at present how far the congregations affected have been induced to make a corresponding increase in their contributions for the support of the ministry, or to what extent the printed reports, setting forth their receipts and expenditure, together with a revised stipend-list, have been received from them to be presented to Synod. In the case of Ballyclare it is known that the congregation, in the most spirited manner, anticipated the visitation of a deputation from Presbytery by increasing their usual payments by the amount that had been withdrawn. That congregation cannot be in a healthful and satisfactory condition which, enjoying the full ministrations of a settled pastor, and participating to some extent in the steady increase of wealth that is apparent throughout the

country, is not prepared and willing to make periodical advancements, after short intervals, in their provision for the support of the ministry and in their contributions for the mission schemes of the Church.

Newtownards. A memorial from the congregation of Newtownards, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, praying Synod, on account of the weak state of the congregation, to restore the grant to them to the original amount, £20, it having been reduced to £15 in the past year, was read. This was agreed to.

Stranorlar. A memorial from Stranorlar congregation, recommended to the favourable consideration of Synod by the Western Presbytery, praying that the grant to them, in their peculiar circumstances, be continued at the amount of £30, was read, and Mr. Tait was heard in support of it.

Grange. A memorial from Grange congregation, licensed by the Southern Presbytery, deprecating any reduction in the amount granted to them, on account of the weakness of the congregation, was also read.

Suspension of Rule. Synod resolved that the rule diminishing the grant by £5 annually be arrested for the present year in relation to Stranorlar, Grange, Fairview, and Ballyclare.

Garvagh. A grant of £35 for the ensuing year was made to the congregation of Garvagh.

It was understood that all the foregoing grants were subject to the condition that the state of the Home Mission funds permit.

Report on Union. XX. The Report of the Committee on Union with the Eastern Synod was read by Mr. Chancellor, who moved its reception. This was seconded by Dr. Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The following is the Report :—

REPORT OF SYNOD'S COMMITTEE ON UNION WITH THE EASTERN REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

Meetings for conference. Your committee have to report that when a copy of the resolution passed by last Synod was transmitted by the Clerk to the Eastern Reformed Synod, that court immediately appointed a committee to correspond and confer with us, for the purposes therein specified; and the two conveners arranged by correspondence for joint meetings, which were punctually attended. Of these meetings, four were held during the year —the first in Ballymena, and the other three in Belfast. In addition to these, your committee met separately, for consultation, as often as it was deemed necessary.

The members of your committee entered upon their work with a deep sense of the gravity and importance of the matter which had been entrusted to them, and, we trust, with a due

Report on Union.

appreciation of the important issues that are involved. Under a sense of solemn responsibility, not only to this Synod, but to the Church at large, with regard to the safe-keeping and the advancement of the testimony of Jesus Christ, they sought the promised guidance and aid of the Divine Spirit, and endeavoured to act at all times as in the immediate presence of the Great Master.

Importance of Union.

We have pleasure in reporting that the united meetings were characterized throughout by the greatest courtesy and candour. Freedom of investigation and discussion was courted on both sides: and there was a common desire that we should arrive at a good and sound understanding upon all subjects that were open for mutual consideration. The avowed conviction on both sides that a union of the Churches, if it could be effected on a right Spiritual basis, was not only desirable and dutiful, but would tend to conserve and promote the great ends for which we each consider it necessary to maintain a separate existence in this age of large and popular unions, led both committees, in a fearless but friendly spirit, to prosecute the inquiry as to how far there were grounds for anticipating that such a re-union might speedily be effected by us

Independence of the Churches

Notwithstanding the fact that the separate existence of these two Churches originated in the unhappy division of 1840, and that they have since continued to be known by the same name, and to maintain before the world the same testimony, it cannot be disputed that they are now perfectly distinct and independent organizations. They are not now, in any sense, responsible to each other. They have hitherto both taken their own separate courses, and either might have changed its own position, or, accepting the overtures for union from larger bodies, have become incorporated with other Churches, if it had seemed good to them, without consulting the opinions or the feelings of the other. The conferences with regard to union were therefore as fresh and voluntary as they would have been between any two Churches that had never been in closer contact with each other. On this account we were entirely precluded from taking up and trying to adjust differences which formerly existed, but are now well-nigh forgotten. We did not consider it to be our duty to revive, in the least, the remembrance of alienated feelings which may have prevailed in the stormy period of disruption. Our business was to ascertain how far the present identity of these Churches in position and principle would warrant the hope that they might once again be united.

Standards of reference.

In order to obtain satisfactory and reliable information on all points having a direct bearing on the question, we endeavoured to exclude from our deliberations, as far as possible, such floating opinions and one-sided or exaggerated impressions as each might have been led in any way to entertain with regard to the other. We considered each Church to be fairly represented only by its own authorized documents and deliverances. At our first joint meeting, the conveners laid upon the table copies of the minutes of their respective Synods, and of their Testimonies and Terms of Communion. As these last were presumed to contain the most comprehensive, familiar, and generally accepted definition of the faith and practice which each Church considered it necessary to maintain, it was resolved to compare them closely and mark distinctly how far they were identical. And in so far as the least divergence in phraseology was discovered, we referred to the public Testimonies of the Churches to ascertain if, nevertheless, in substance and in principle, there was agreement.

Agreement ascertained.

With regard to the result of these investigations we have to report, that although the separation of these Churches was effected under the pressure of such strong and divergent emotions, as ecclesiastical controversy has been usually found to engender, and although these two small bodies have pursued their separate paths for the past thirty-six years, exposed to all the modifying influences of the world, and to various attractions and inducements to turn to the right hand or to the left; yet we were surprised and delighted to find that they have remained so true to their former engagements and professions, and to the great ends for which the Covenanting Church has maintained a separate existence and testimony in the land. Their Terms of Communion and Testimonies are substantially the same. They both avow their solemn adherence to the Reformation attainments, and the Scriptural Covenants of these lands, and their belief in the duty and obligation of Covenant Renovation. They are agreed in maintaining an open and persistent testimony to the Divine claims of the Lord Jesus Christ to the fealty and homage of these covenanted nations; and in asserting and vindicating to the last, His supreme and sole authority over everything that affects the inner life—the worship, membership, discipline, and all the outward relationships of His own Church. In all their fond and cherished associations with the past, and in their aims and desires for the future, they seem to be at one. Isolated and individual discrepancies may have been manifested on either side, and slight perturbations may have been feared or detected at times in their respective orbits

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but, hitherto they have determinately held on their separate courses, refusing to coalesce with larger Churches, who make no account of their peculiar testimony for Christ's Headship over the nations; or who, notwithstanding their bold assertion of His Headship in the Church, have shown a disposition to give place, amid His instituted ordinances, to unscriptural innovations and dangerous corruptions in the worship of the sanctuary.

Speedy reunion possible.

We have had no opportunity yet of ascertaining how far the feelings of the two Churches may be in favour of union, nor whether minor points of divergence may not appear upon closer investigation; but during the conferences of the past year, we have not been able to discover anything in the authorized profession or practice of either that should be considered a bar to their speedy and hearty re-union. There do not exist, we are persuaded, in all Christendom, two other Churches so thoroughly at one in all their distinguishing principles and practice, and so largely pervaded by the same spirit, not separated by geographical or National obstructions, that consider it necessary to continue to exist side by side as independent organizations. The re-union of these two bodies would be a happy healing of the breaches which have been so long lamented among us, and would, we trust, at the same time lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of our Covenanted tabernacle in these lands. But that the Synod may be able to judge for itself as to the results of our meetings, and as to the grounds for the hopeful inferences which we have now drawn, we beg to submit the full revised minutes of the joint meetings of the two committees, which are appended as a portion of this report.

Results of Investigation.

Copy of the Minutes of Four Meetings of the Joint Commitees on Union of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland and Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod, revised and finally adopted at their Fourth Meeting, held in Belfast, on April 25th, 1876.

Members present:—Revs. S. B. Stevenson, W. Russell, J. A. Chancellor, J. F. Hurst, J. A. Moody, and Samuel Patton—Rev. J. F. Hurst in the chair.

1. That a Union of the two Synods represented by us is most desirable.

2. That, inasmuch as we represent separate and independent Churches, we regard it as our duty to ascertain the principles and present position of the two Churches with a view to determine how far they are agreed.

3. The two conveners accordingly lay on the table copies of the minutes of their respective Synods of last year; also the respective Testimonies and Terms of Communion, and it was agreed to take up and compare said Terms of Communion as the authorized statements of the principles and position of the two Churches.

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4. It was found that Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 6, and the 1st clause of Term No. 4, viz:—"The acknowledgment of the perpetual obligation of our Covenants National and Solemn League" in our respective Terms of Communion are identical.

5. With regard to the remainder of Term No. 4, it was ascertained also that the Joint Committee are agreed as to a "Church or people being, in the exercise of duty, warranted to renew these Covenants as the aspects of Divine Providence may require, and that, approving of the zeal and faithfulness which prompted our fathers to engage in this work at seasonable times, we admit that we are placed under superadded obligation to adhere to these Covenants in consequence of their deeds of renovation—(Extract from the Scotch Reformed Presbyterian Testimony, 1841.)

6. The Committee of the Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod receive from their brethren of the other Committee the statement that the Historical Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, up to the date at which the Scotch Reformed Presbyterian Testimony ends, is substantially a compendium of the historical part of the Scotch Reformed Presbyterian Testimony published in 1841. On this statement the Joint Committees agree to record their agreement so far in their historical testimony.

7. Exception was taken by the Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod's Committee to the passage in the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, which refers to the disruption of the Church in the year 1840, and the Eastern Synod's Committee desire to have said exception recorded.

8. The members of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod's Committee express their sympathy with the feelings of the brethren on this subject, and, in the event of the two Synods seeing their way to a corporate union, they do not hesitate to declare that a revision of this part of the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony would be requisite.

9. The Joint Committees deem it important to put on record the fact that the Testimonies of both Churches are at one in asserting the Messiah's universal dominion, and the duty of nations as well as Churches and individuals to acknowledge and serve him, and in testifying against the Church's connection with unscriptural governments, and they agree that, in the event of union, it will still be the duty of the United Church to exhibit and maintain those great principles which the Reformed Presbyterian Church during all her history has been honoured to assert.

10. The Joint Committees recognise with thankfulness the agreement between the two Churches, in respect of purity of worship and the maintenance of a Scriptural discipline in the house of God, and they see, in the disposition so general in our day to repudiate the true Protestant and Scriptural doctrine of divine warrant and prescription in the regulation of the worship of God, an additional reason for union among those who uphold that doctrine.

11. That, making thankful acknowledgment of, and having regard to, the very large measure of unity, which, in our mutual conferences, we have ascertained to exist between the negociating Churches in doctrine, history, testimony, discipline, and principle and practice of worship, we would recommend the exercise of mutual confidence on the part of the members of the united Church; and especially we are unanimous in declaring that it should be the constant aim of all the members of the united Church earnestly and harmoniously to promote the great public ends of our common testimony, and to follow

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those things which make for peace, and wherewith one may edify another.

On the motion of the Rev. J. A Moody, seconded by the Rev. W. Russell, the thanks of the Joint Committees were tendered to the Rev. J. F. Hurst and the Rev. Samuel Patton, for their services as Chairman and Secretary, respectively, during the year.

(Signed),

J. F. HURST, CHAIRMAN.
S. PATTON, SECRETARY.

Resolution on Report.

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. James Stewart, and passed, *nem. diss.*—"That the Synod, having with much satisfaction and unfeigned thankfulness to the Head of the Church, heard of the frankness and cordiality which have characterized the conferences of the two committees, and the very great measure of substantial agreement between the Testimonies and practices of the two bodies which they represent, reappoint its committee, with the addition to their number of Revs. Dr. Dick, R. Nevin, A. Savage, T. Dick, J. Brown, and I. Thompson, with Messrs. Galway, Morrow, Potts, Hewitt, and Stewart, Ruling Elders, to make such further inquiry as may be deemed necessary, and, in the event of no difficulty arising, to proceed to the immediate preliminaries and arrangements for union—a well-matured report and statement of arrangements to be in readiness at our next meeting of Synod.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 14th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Rev. John Hart conducting devotional exercises.

Commission appointed.

XXI. The Commission of Synod was appointed, consisting of the following members:—

The Moderator.	Rev. John Hart.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	W. Dick.
J. Brown.	R. Nevin, *Clerk*.
J. F. Hurst.	Mr. W. J. Galway.
A. Savage.	James Reynolds.
T. Houston, D.D.	Thomas Henry.
J. A. Chancellor.	William Dunlop.

Addresses on the Ministry

XXII. According to the Order of Business adopted, the time of this session was mainly devoted to hearing addresses in relation to the existing deficiency in the number of candidates for the Gospel ministry.

Dr. Houston addressed the court on "The Position and Importance of the Christian Ministry historically considered."

The Rev. J. Brown, on "The Value of the Ministry to the Life of the Church."

The Rev. J. D. Houston, on "The Christian Ministry supplied by the Church."

On the motion of Mr. Chancellor, the thanks of Synod were tendered to the speakers, and they were requested to furnish the manuscripts of the addresses to the editor of *The Covenanter* for publication.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 15th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

The minutes of the two previous sederunts were read and confirmed.

XXIII. Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and read, as follows:—

REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of N. Presbytery.

The Northern Presbytery report that, during the past year, the ordinary quarterly meetings have been regularly held, and have been characterized, without any exception, by harmony and brotherly love. Ordinances have been regularly dispensed in all our congregations, with evidence, we trust, of the accompanying blessing of heaven.

To our vacant congregations and stations under our care we have sent regular supplies of preaching, though, on account of the scarcity of preachers, not as frequent as we would wish. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been dispensed, by the appointment of Presbytery, in our vacant congregations.

Call from Garvagh.

On the 2nd of May the Rev. J. D. Houston, in conjunction with the Rev. John Hart, by appointment of Presbytery, moderated in a call in Garvagh. The call issued unanimously in favour of the Rev. James Littlejohn, minister (without charge) of the Scotch R. P. Church, and at the next regular meeting of the court it was accepted by him. He has since been transferred by the united Presbyteries of Glasgow and Edinburgh to the jurisdiction of the Northern Presbytery, and arrangements have been made for his installation on the 5th day of July of the present year.

Resignation, Rev. W. Toland.

At our meeting in May a paper from the Rev. William Toland, asking leave of the court, on account of bodily infirmity, to resign the active duties of the ministry in the congregation of Kilraughts, was read by the Clerk. The elders from Kilraughts also stated that the congregation, while deeply sympathising with the pastor, acquiesced in his request to be permitted to resign the active duties of the pastorate. As the matter referred to in the paper was of grave

Report of N. Presbytery.

importance, and as it came in rather unexpectedly, it was agreed to defer the consideration of it till the next meeting, the Clerk, in the meantime, being instructed to write, in the name of Presbytery, a letter of brotherly sympathy to Mr. Toland.

Resignation accepted.

At the meeting of the court in Belfast, on the 14th inst., Mr. Toland's request was taken up for consideration, when it was the opinion of all the members that, taking into account the state of the bodily health of their brother, his long-continued weakness, and the apparent cutting off of all hope of complete restoration, and bowing under the hand of Him who disposes all things wisely and well, it was the course of duty to accede to the request. His resignation of the active duties of the ministry was accordingly accepted. We have pleasure in reporting that the congregation of Kilraughts has determined to testify, in a generous and substantial manner, its appreciation of the services of the pastor who has so long laboured among them, and who has so endeared himself to every one of them. Presbytery also agreed to recommend their brother to Synod for a grant of £50 per annum out of the Aged Ministers' Fund.

Presbytery reports that, in the course of the year, the sermons on Temperance enjoined by Synod have been delivered in almost all the congregations.

Student.

There is at present under the care of Presbytery Mr. John Dick, M.A., who has fulfilled his course in theology.

JAMES BROWN, *Moderator.*
JAMES D. HOUSTON, *Clerk.*

REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of S. Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery report that, during the past year, the usual meetings have been held, all characterized by that good feeling and brotherly kindness which ought to exist amongst brethren bound together in the cause of Christ and in the interests of His kingdom and glory.

State of Religion.

There has been the usual attention paid to the celebration of the ordinances of divine grace in our congregations and preaching stations. There seems to be an appreciation of the means of grace on the part not only of the people under our care, but also on the part of numbers within our bounds who, although not in all cases connecting themselves with us, wait with interest and attention upon the religious services in our congregations.

Ordination, Ballylane.

It is gratifying to report that the Rev. William M'Knight has been ordained in the congregation of Ballylane. His ordination took place during the month of March.

The congregations under our care are manifesting a greater

spirit of liberality both in the support of those who minister to them in holy things and in the various mission schemes.

Temperance. Temperance in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks appears to be upon the increase, as comparatively few cases for the administration of Church discipline have been coming under our observation. By the institution of total abstinence societies in the most of our congregations something has been done towards the preservation of the young, at least, from habits which fill the world with "mourning, lamentation, and woe."

Presbytery nominate the Revs. A. Savage and J. Frazer-Hurst as members of Commission for the ensuing year.

W. S. FERGUSON, *Moderator.*
J. FRAZER-HURST, *Clerk.*

REPORT OF THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of E. Presbytery. The Eastern Presbytery report that, since last Synod, they have held nine meetings, three of them for visitation.

There has been the ordinary dispensation of the ordinances of grace in our congregations, by the divine blessing, it is hoped, made profitable to many. Our meetings were peaceful, and the result of our visitation meetings afforded considerable satisfaction—in some cases was very gratifying.

The collections for the several schemes of the Church were promptly taken up, and the days of thanksgiving and fasting were duly observed.

Temperance. The circular on Temperance was received, and attention given to its requirements. Sermons on the subject were preached in most, if not all, of our congregations. Our ministers and elders are quite alive to the importance, the necessity, of helping on this reformation by all Scriptural means.

Installation, Liverpool. On the 1st July the Rev. William J. Maxwell was installed in the lately-organized congregation of Liverpool. Shortly afterwards the congregation purchased a church, with session-room and school-room attached, at £1,700. The appeal of the Liquidation Committee to the Church at large and the Christian public met the full approval of Presbytery, and was by them strongly recommended to the consideration and liberality of both.

Dromara. The congregation of Dromara has obtained a favourable site for a meeting-house. The house is being erected, and is expected to be ready to accommodate them before winter. This people are engaged in a great undertaking, and are well deserving of the support and encouragement of the whole Church.

TORRENS BOYD, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM RUSSELL, *Clerk.*

Report of W. Presbytery.

REPORT OF WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

The Western Presbytery report that they have held five meetings in the past year. The means of grace have been dispensed and waited on with accustomed regularity, and we trust not without blessing from on high.

Ordination at Faughan.

On the 26th of October moderation in a call took place at Faughan, and the call issued unanimously in favour of the Rev. Matthew Neill. It was presented to him at the regular meeting, on the 3rd of November, and accepted; and on the 17th of February he was ordained to the pastoral office, as assistant and successor to the Rev. J. P. Sweeney. Our young brother commences his official labours amid the most favourable circumstances. He ministers to a most intelligent, kind, and considerate people, who already have given evidence of strong attachment, and there is abundant promise of great usefulness.

Mr. Sweeney.

With deep regret we have to intimate that our respected father, the Rev. J. P. Sweeney, seems to be drawing near to the termination of his life-journey, and we would earnestly commend him to the affectionate sympathies and prayers of brethren in the ministry and throughout the Church.

Mr. M'Farlane

The Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, in the course of the winter, was recalled from the United States by the dangerous illness of a near relative; but, not having completed his design, he has returned to that country for a time.

Mr. Mackeown

The Rev. J. W. Mackeown having been recommended by a Commission of Synod, specially appointed in his case, to Presbytery, to be furnished with credentials, these have accordingly been forwarded to him.

W. DICK, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

Report of N.B. and N.S. Presbytery.

REPORT OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

The Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report that, during the past year, they have held three meetings. Divine ordinances have been observed with usual regularity in all our congregations, and a few accessions have been made to the Church's membership. The failing health of some of the ministerial brethren and the very recent and sudden removal of an esteemed elder by death indicate that "the night cometh."

Union with U.S. Synod.

Presbytery report that nothing more has been done respecting the talked of union with the American Synod than the appointment of a committee to obtain further information.

Not having received any official communication in reply to our reference to Synod's Commission, no further action has been taken in the matter referred to.

Presbytery deeply sympathize with Synod in the alarming paucity of candidates for the ministry, and will not cease to pray that He who has the hearts of all in His hand will send forth sufficient labourers into His harvest.

A. M. STAVELY, *Moderator.*
J. R. LAWSON, *Clerk.*

XXIV. Synod agreed to sanction the action of the Northern Presbytery in accepting the resignation of the Rev. Wm. Toland, and to give effect to their recommendation, that he should have an annuity of £50 from the Aged Ministers' Fund.

XXV. The Report of the Committee for inspecting records of Presbyteries was handed in and read, as follows :— **Report on Records.**

"The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbyteries found them correct, with the exception of some of them being signed neither by the Moderator nor Clerk, which we consider a serious omission.

"ROBERT ALLEN, *Convener.*"

XXVI. A scale of Preachers' Appointments was put in and adopted as follows :— **Preachers' Appointments.**

	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Rev. J. R. Moody	1,2,W. 3,4,5,E.	1,2,S. 3,4,E.	1,2,E. 3,4,W.	1,2,W 3,4,5,N.	1,2,E. 3,4,W.	1,2,N. 3,4,5,E	1,2,S. 3,4,N.
Mr Scott.....	W.	N.	N.	1,2,S. 3,4,5,W.	N.	N.	W.
Mr. Warwick.....	N.	W.	W.	N.	W.	W.	N.

XXVII. A summary of Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting was submitted and adopted, as follows :— **Causes of Thanksgiving and Fasting.**

CAUSES OF FASTING.

1. We would, first of all, as individual church members, deplore our own personal sinfulness. We must acknowledge our coldness in Christ's service, the weakness of our faith, our want of interest in the extension of Christ's kingdom, and our shortcomings in the matter of Christian work and Christian liberality. **Personal.**

2. We have cause for deep regret in the strong tendency which at present exists among various evangelical churches to attribute spiritual deadness not to its true cause, the neglect of, or careless attendance upon, gospel ordinances, but to the meagre and unadorned character of evangelical worship, and to think that if arrangements calculated to engage the carnal mind were only introduced, the spiritual life would be increased. In this connexion we ought to mourn the very considerable unanimity with which professedly **Inroads on Purity of Worship.**

Causes of Fasting. evangelical ministers comply with the demands of a depraved taste, which they are divinely appointed to correct.

3. We have, as a church, good ground for noting, with humiliation and sorrow, the sad and singular deficiency in the number of candidates for the ministry.

Worldliness. 4. We deplore the growing power of that covetousness which has been long the great sin of Britain, and which has been greatly stimulated by the pride of life. In the world this love of money often leads men to engage in a commercial speculation which ignores the law of God, and tramples upon the rights of man; in the church it diminishes practical sympathy with the poor, makes the office of the ministry appear, so to speak, a bad pecuniary speculation, and leads professing Christians to allow many interesting fields for missionary effort to remain neglected.

ntemperance. 5. We ought to mourn the undoubtedly great and growing evil of intemperance in the use of intoxicating drink. Our chief regret is, not that about £140,000,000 are annually spent on the liquor traffic, but that intemperance has entailed, and is still entailing, so much physical and moral degradation, and that in the church of the living God it robs the Lord's treasury (scanty at the best) of much to which He lays claim, and retards the spiritual advancement of so many Christian professors.

Political. 6. We ought to mourn the fact that Britain is still a covenant-breaking land, and that base expediency is still regarded as the safest and best standard of political legislation by many of the noblest minds in both the Church and the State. While the headship of Christ over the State is admitted in terms, there seems to have arisen, perhaps from past abuses in the application of this doctrine, a strong feeling that it would be not only inconvenient, but even unjust, to give the exalted Redeemer any actual control of the national administration. Many in the purer evangelical churches who win some applause by applauding the Covenants, hold views diametrically opposite to the leading principles of the Covenants—maintaining, for instance, that no kind of religious test should be required in a candidate for political office, and that statesmen should not render any kind of distinctively Christian service.

CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING.

Causes of Thanksgiving. 1. We thank God for His unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Divine Bounty. 2. We ought to acknowledge the bounty of God in giving us, from year to year, to reap abundant harvests. Are we not called upon by God's temporal blessings to cherish a

spirit of gratitude, and exhibit a large measure of Christian liberality? **Causes of Thanksgiving.**

3. We would mark the goodness of God in still extending to us the enjoyment of His ordinances, in providing our Church hitherto with a sufficient number of ministers, and in giving civil and religious liberty, so that there are many opportunities for hearing the Word, and for abounding in the work of the Lord. **Means of Grace.**

4. We consider it a matter for humble but thankful congratulation that the members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church unanimously adhere to the pure administration of Gospel ordinances, and seem to have no belief in the power of sensational novelties to accomplish true revival. This attitude on their part, while perfectly consistent with the deepest love for souls, evidences a refreshing reverence for the authority of Christ, and belief in the necessity, sovereignty, and power of the Holy Spirit. **Ordinances in R P. Church**

5. We rejoice that on the continent of Europe civil and religious liberty continues to progress against autocratic and Papal despotism. Let us hope and pray and act so that the many doors that have been opened may be entered by many ambassadors of Christ, to teach the Roman Catholic populations that their newly-acquired rights, though condemned by the false prophet of Rome, are perfectly compatible with the rights of God, and to lead them under the light of Gospel truth to the blessedness of that people whose God is Jehovah. **Continental Progress.**

6. We rejoice that in Germany and Switzerland the dignity and rights of the State have been successfully and peacefully asserted against sacerdotal arrogance, sedition, and tyranny. Ought we not to thank God that Rome, which once reigned proudly over the kings of the earth, cannot now persuade one of them to act, or even protest against anti-ultramontane legislation—to attempt the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope, or even to arrest evangelical effort in the city of Rome? **Germany and Switzerland.**

7. We rejoice that the Turkish power, founded as it was and is on fanaticism, sensuality, and persecution, and displaying the greatest mendacity, dishonesty, and impotence, seems destined, under God's retributive providence with regard to it, and in the fulfilment of His gracious purposes towards the East, soon to be utterly broken up, and to pass away from the path of apostolical vital Christianity as it goes forth conquering and to conquer. **Turkey.**

8. We rejoice that the work of evangelisation is going on with great success in many heathen lands, that additional labourers are sent out to them from time to time, and that **Missions.**

new fields are chosen from year to year with ever-brightening promise.

The last Thursday of November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving, and the last Thursday of January, 1877, as the day of annual Fasting.

The Rev. M. Hodge and Dr. Houston were appointed to draw up the summary of Causes for next year.

Trustees' Report.

XXVIII. Mr. Chancellor submitted the report of Synod's Trustees. This was regarded as highly satisfactory.

In respect to the Aged Ministers' Fund, Synod ordered that the balance of interest from the past year be transferred to the interest account of the coming year, instead of being added to the capital.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 15th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer, Mr. Lyons conducting devotional exercises.

Foreign Correspondence.

XXIX. A copy of a letter which had been sent to the Synod of the United States of America was read. A reply had not yet arrived, but the letter and reply, when received, were ordered to be published with the Minutes.

The Rev. J. Brown was appointed, in conjunction with the Clerk, to write the letter to the American Synod next year.

So. Deputation heard.

XXX. The Rev. James Dick, M.A., of the deputation from the Scottish Synod, was introduced by the Rev. J. F. Hurst, and addressed the court.

The Rev. John M'Kee, of Penpont, also addressed the court, at the request of the Moderator.

At the close of these addresses it was moved by Mr Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Thompson, and passed unanimously—

"That the Synod, having heard with much satisfaction the addresses of the brethren from Scotland, now convey to them, through the Moderator, an expression of their thanks, and of their unabated attachment to and regard for the Church which they represent, and request an abstract of their addresses for publication in *The Covenanter*. We also declare that, although the body calling itself the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland has recently joined the Free Church, abandoning at once its name, formularies, and the ancient and influential position which it so long occupied among the churches of Scotland, yet we regard the position, principles, and Testimony distinctive of that Church in unbroken descent from the Covenanting Church of the Second Reformation, as maintained in all their integrity by the Synod in Scotland represented here to-night, and we rejoice in the fidelity and self-denying zeal manifested by that body in occupying and defending the time-honoured and Scriptural position which has now been relinquished to their sole keeping."

The Rev. William Dick, M.A., and Mr. John Potts, ruling elder, were appointed a deputation to the Scottish Synod next year.

Temperance.

XXXI. Mr. Chancellor explained why there was no Report on Temperance this year, and in lieu thereof proposed the following resolutions, which were seconded by Rev. C. K. Toland, and passed, *nem. diss.* :—

"That this Synod, in consideration of their own solemn duty before God and man, and of their oft-repeated obligations to promote, by every means in their power, the cause of true religion and of Scriptural morality, and having regard to the immense and still increasing prevalence of the great national sin of intemperance, with its fearful concomitants of iniquity, crime, and ruin of every kind, unanimously resolve—

Intemperance a National sin.

"1. That we feel called upon to renew our public and most emphatic protest against the national sanction and encouragement which is given to the liquor traffic, in defiance of the imperative requirements of God's Word with regard to the character and ends of civil government, as also against the licensing system which is administered so extensively and in many instances so indiscriminately throughout the country, as well as against the drinking customs which are so powerfully and persistently maintained by the different classes of society, as being uncalled for and essentially evil, and inflicting immeasurable injury upon the cause of Christ and upon the social, physical, and immortal well-being and upon the public character and influence of the inhabitants of these lands.

Closing of Pub. Houses on Sabbath.

"2. That we cannot but express our sincere gratification and thankfulness to God that, notwithstanding the immense social and Parliamentary influence of those who are engaged in this traffic, so unscrupulously put forth to secure their own selfish interests by the favour which they extort from Government, and, in consequence, the painful evidence we have from so many quarters of the steady increase and enthralling power of this traffic, yet, as the result of the indignant public opinion which has been evoked against it, and by the noble and determined exertions of the friends of Scriptural temperance and public morality throughout this country, acting together with unwonted unanimity and patriotic emulation, a motion has been carried in Parliament by a large majority against the Government in favour of the closing of public-houses during the whole of the Lord's Day in Ireland, and a bill has now been introduced giving effect to this decision; and we regard it as the special duty of this Church to encourage and help forward this movement by every legitimate means, and to pray earnestly to the Lord of the Sabbath that it may be speedily carried to a triumphant issue.

A Scriptural Testimony needed.

"3. That, as intemperance is a moral and physical evil, deep-rooted in the depraved nature of man, which cannot be eradicated or efficiently dealt with by Parliamentary enactments, but must be subdued, and gradually exterminated, by the power of the grace of God, acting through the instrumentalities of the blessed Gospel, this Synod would enjoin upon all the ministers and elders of this Church to maintain an unceasing and uncompromising testimony against the sin of drunkenness and against the common usages whereby it is so insidiously propagated and maintained, and against the public-house system, which ministers so directly and successfully to its prevalence; and we would exhort and entreat all the office-bearers

and members of the Church to separate themselves and their families from all participation in the system, and, by a publicly avowed adherence to the strictest principles and practices of Bible temperance, to promote, by their moral influence as well as by their testimony, the reduction and removal of this tremendous curse from the land.

Faithful Discipline.

"4. This Synod would, moreover, urge upon all the inferior courts of the Church to deal promptly and faithfully with every case that is brought before them, so as to maintain the power and salutary influence of Church discipline in removing scandal, restraining and deterring the unwary, and bringing up the youth of the Church under the protective influences of a strong public opinion and the holy restraints of an unslumbering and affectionate ecclesiastical care.

"5. That an early Sabbath in December be appointed on which all the ministers of the Church shall preach on this important subject, and read to their people these Synodical resolutions, and that the ordinary collection on that day be forwarded to the Secretary for the promotion of this cause."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 16th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

Report of Irish Miss.

XXXII. The Report of the Irish Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Hurst, and passed, *nem. diss.*

The Report follows:—

REPORT OF IRISH MISSION IN CONNEXION WITH DUBLIN CONGREGATION.

During the past year the Dublin congregation has received its supplies of preaching, according to the arrangements made at last Synod, from the Southern Presbytery. The preachers were paid, as before, £2 per Sabbath, but, while formerly for every pound given for preaching by the congregation another was given from the mission fund, during the year now closing for every 16s contributed by the people £1 4s was given from the fund. The congregation has had preaching on nineteen Sabbaths. The members are so circumstanced that they have little time to accompany a minister who would be inclined to do mission work among the neglected. The supplies, moreover, have lately been mostly licentiates, who do not care to enter on difficult mission work. The congregation hold the opinion that this work can only be done by placing permanently a missionary in Dublin. They long for this, but in the meantime they ask to have continued to them such help as Synod can afford. Though there has been no increase of membership, it is hoped that the preaching of the Word and visitation of families have been accompanied with the blessing

of God to their edification. May God still more abundantly bless His people there, feed them, and lift them up for ever!

It was ordered that the arrangement acted on last year in respect to the supply of Dublin congregation be continued this year.

XXXIII. The Report on the Theological Hall was read by the Clerk. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Hurst, and passed, *nem. diss.* Report on Theol. Hall.

The following is the Report:—

REPORT ON THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall report that, for the second time during the twenty-two years it has been in existence, there was no Student to give attendance. While we are by no means disposed to indulge gloomy or desponding views, yet this betokens a state of matters which cannot be contemplated without deep regret.

On the 2nd of August the Committee held a meeting in Ballymoney, for the purpose of examining Mr. Matthew Neill, preparatory to licence, according to remit of Synod. He was examined on the subjects of the undergraduate course; the examination was sustained, and he was recommended to his Presbytery to be taken under trials for licence. Examination, Mr. Neill.

The subjects appointed last year for intersessional study will remain, as those on which Students will be examined at the commencement of another session. Intersessional Studies.

The Committee would again urge the necessity for some measures being taken in order to obtain larger collections to meet the expenditure connected with the Hall.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Hall for the ensuing year was appointed, consisting of the following members:— Com. of Superin

The Moderator.

Rev. Thomas Dick.	Rev. J. D. Houston.
James Brown.	G. Douglas.
J. A. Chancellor.	R. Nevin, *Convener.*

It was arranged that the Hall should open on the second Tuesday of November, and close on the second Tuesday of March, 1877. Time to open and close.

The Clerk was instructed to get no more than 200 copies of the Minutes printed in separate form—two or three only to be sent to each of the Home congregations for the use of the minister and session.

XXXIV. The Moderator and Mr. Chancellor were appointed a Committee to correspond with Lord Derby in relation to the continued persecution of Christian converts in Syria. Persecution in Syria.

XXXV. The Moderator and Mr. Chancellor were also

Code of Discipline. appointed a Committee to revise the Code of Discipline and report to Synod at next meeting.

Members of Synod were requested to send to this Committee early in the year any suggestions in the way of alteration or amendment they think desirable.

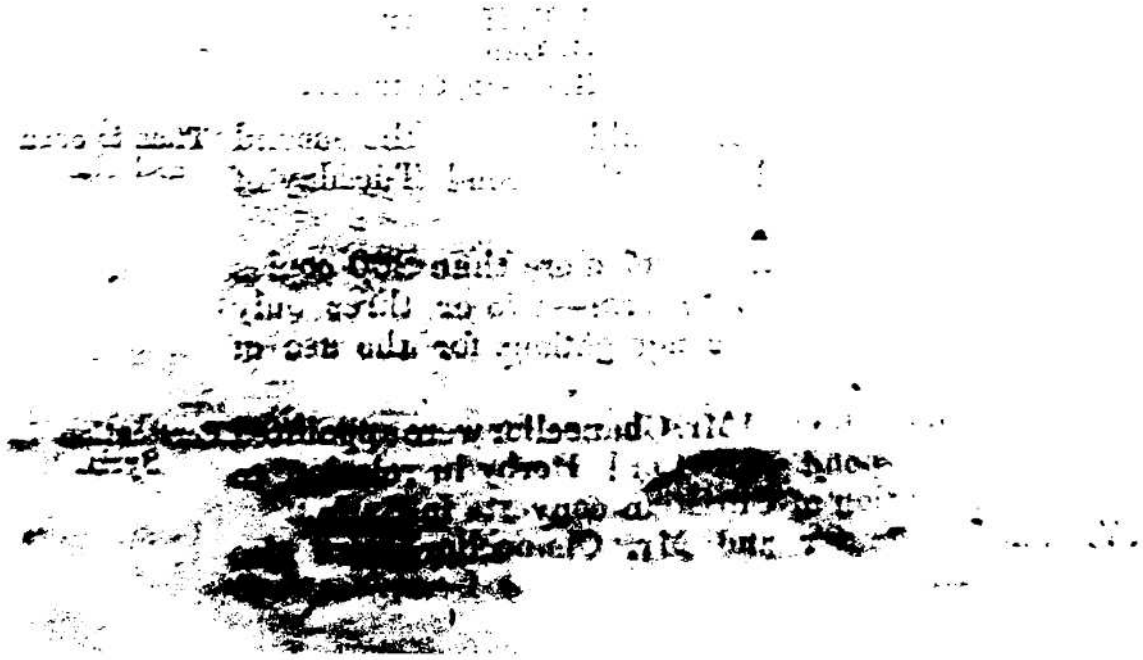
Vote of Thanks. XXXVI. On motion of Mr. Toland, seconded by Mr. Savage, the thanks of Synod were tendered to the Belfast congregation for the very kind manner in which they had provided for the comfort of members of Synod on this as on former occasions.

The whole of the minutes were read and confirmed.

Final Adjournment. At a quarter past twelve o'clock the Moderator briefly addressed the court, and, at his request, Dr. Dick led in praise and prayer—Synod thus standing adjourned till the 11th of June, 1877.

Attested by

R. NEVIN, *Synod Clerk.*



APPENDIX.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Synodical Officers.

Moderator.

Rev. WILLIAM RUSSELL, Ballyclare.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. James Dick, D.D., Ballymena.

ECCLES. HIST., PAST. THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Mr. James Meharg.

General Treasurer.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin. | Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener.* | Rev. William Toland.
Rev. A. Savage. | Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.

COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.

IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.

FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. Robert Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission of Synod.

Commission.

The Moderator.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.
„ J. Brown.
„ J. F. Hurst.
„ A. Savage.
„ T. Houston, D D.
„ J. A. Chancellor.

Rev. John Hart.
„ W. Dick.
„ R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
Mr. W. Dunlop.
„ W. J. Galway.
„ James Reynolds.
„ Thomas Henry.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Temperance Association.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

Committees.

The Moderator.

Rev. Thomas Dick.
„ James Brown.
„ J. A. Chancellor.

Rev. J. D. Houston.
„ G. Douglas.
„ R. Nevin, *Convener.*

Committees.

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.
Rev. J. Brown and Clerk of Synod.

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. M. Hodge, *Convener.*	Rev. Dr. Houston.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTTISH SYNOD.

Rev. W. Dick.	Mr. John Potts.

COMMITTEE ON PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

Rev. T. Houston, D.D.	Rev. J. Dick, D.D.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, R. Nevin.

COMMITTEE ON UNION.

The Moderator.	Rev. I. Thompson.
Rev. C. K. Toland.	,, J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*
,, Dr. Dick.	Mr. W. J. Galway.
,, R. Nevin.	,, W. Morrow.
,, A. Savage.	,, J. Potts.
,, T. Dick.	,, J. Hewitt.
,, J. Brown.	,, J. Stewart.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.
The Moderator.

Rev. Dr. Dick.	Rev. G. Douglas
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, R. Nevin.
,, J. Brown.	,, Dr. Houston, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ANENT PERSECUTION IN SYRIA.

The Moderator,	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

COMMITTEE ON AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Dr. Dick, *Convener.*	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. C. K. Toland.	Mr. William Reid.

Synodical Appointments.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

COLLECTION for Home Mission,..... 1st Sabbath, October.
,, For. and Jewish,..... 1st Sabbath, December.
,, Hall and Synod Fund,..... 1st Sabbath, February.
,, Colonial Mission,..... 1st Sabbath, April.
,, Irish Mission,..... 1st Sabbath, June.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 14th Nov., 1876.
Closes Tuesday, 13th March, 1877.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 15th Nov., 1876, and Wednesday, 14th March, 1877.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 30th November, 1876.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 25th January, 1877.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Londonderry, Monday, 11th June, 1877, at seven o'clock, p.m.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

NORTHERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and Nov.
SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.
EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.
WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and Nov.
NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA—As occasion requires.

	Congregations.	Ministers.	Members.	Stipend.	Manse or Travelling Expenses.	Collected, 1876.	Collected, 1875.	Total, 1876	Total, 1875	Supplement. 1876.	Supplement. 1875.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SELF-SUPPORTING.	Bailliesmills	T. Dick	140	95 0 0	....	14 0 0	4 0 0	109 0 0	99 0 0	....	....
	Ballenon	A. Savage	212	100 0 0	1 10 0	5 0 0	2 3 9	106 10 0	102 3 9	....	....
	Ballybay	G. Douglas	180	100 0 0	....	13 15 0	11 10 0	113 15 0	111 10 0	....	....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	110 0 0	....	6 13 0	6 5 6	116 13 0	106 5 6	....	....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	380	280 0 0	5 0 0	46 15 3	50 0 0	331 15 3	315 0 0	....	....
	Bready	C. K. Toland	187	130 0 0	5 0 0	7 12 0	7 0 0	142 12 0	132 0 0	....	....
	Coleraine	J. D. Houston	150	100 0 0	Manse.	3 19 3	3 8 0	103 19 3	103 8 0	....	....
	Convoy		200	100 0 0	3 0 0	2 1 0	....	105 1 0	103 0 0	....	....
	Dervock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	120 0 0	....	7 12 0	10 0 0	127 12 0	130 0 0	....	....
	Donegal	R. M'Farlane	13	12 0 0	....	....	5 0 0	12 0 0	17 0 0	....	....
	Drimbolg	I. Thompson	182	110 0 0	....	5 5 5	6 5 10	115 5 5	116 5 10	....	....
	Dromara	T. Boyd	460	130 0 0	15 0 0	6 2 7	5 0 0	151 2 7	150 0 0	....	....
	Faughan	M. Neill	152	100 0 0	3 0 0	5 7 6	6 13 7	108 7 6	76 13 7	....	....
	Kellswater	J. Dick	236	100 0 0	....	10 7 0	11 0 0	110 7 0	111 0 0	....	....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	172	100 0 0	2 0 0	6 4 3	6 14 8	108 4 3	108 14 8	....	....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	230	100 0 0	Manse.	7 10 0	17 0 0	107 10 0	117 0 0	....	....
	Limavady	W. Dick	249	125 0 0	....	5 4 0	5 15 3	130 4 0	130 15 3	....	....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	95	140 0 0	Manse.	10 2 10	2 0 0	150 2 10	142 0 0	....	....
	Loughbrickland	J. F. Hurst	130	100 0 0	....	2 4 7	2 5 3	102 4 7	102 5 3	....	....
	Newry	A. M'L. S. Lyons	117	120 0 0	....	1 0 0	....	121 0 0	120 0 0	....	....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	240	90 0 0	....	6 0 0	9 0 6	96 0 0	99 0 6	....	....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	90	50 0 0	....	6 10 0	10 0 0	56 10 0	60 0 0	20 0 0	25 0 0
	Ballylane	W. M'Knight	115	75 0 0	1 0 0	....	3 11 0	76 0 0	54 11 0	7 10 0	20 0 0
	Bushmills	J. Brown	..	....	....	2 15 0	1 13 0	2 15 0	1 13 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Cloughmills		12	7 0 0	....	1 0 0	1 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dromore		28	15 0 0	....	1 3 0	1 9 3	16 3 0	16 9 3	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dublin		14	28 5 0	....	1 0 0	1 3 4	29 5 0	29 8 4	....	....
	Fairview	G. Lillie	38	50 0 0	....	3 8 4	5 12 10	53 8 4	55 12 10	20 0 0	25 0 0
	Garvagh	J. Littlejohn	100	70 0 0	....	4 0 0	3 7 0	74 0 0	73 7 0	....	....
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	50	32 0 0	....	2 10 0	2 15 0	34 10 0	34 15 0	20 0 0	25 0 0
	Killinchy	M. Hodge	40	65 0 0	.....	4 0 0	2 0 0	69 0 0	67 0 0	32 10 0	23 10 0
	Larne		25	45 0 0	....	1 0 0	1 4 6	46 0 0	46 4 6	10 0 0	12 0 0
	Lisdonnan		9	6 0 0	....	....	0 10 0	6 0 0	6 10 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Liverpool	W. J. Maxwell	60	100 0 0	....	2 12 0	2 5 0	102 12 0	80 17 3	50 0 0	25 0 0
	Magherafelt	I. Thompson	24	10 0 0	....	2 0 0	2 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Mulvin		38	65 0 0	....	4 19 0	3 14 6	69 19 0	68 14 6	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Newtownards	R. Allen	67	70 0 0	Manse.	2 8 2	8 19 9	72 8 2	78 19 9	15 0 0	20 0 0
	Ringrash		75	60 0 0	1 0 0	1 14 0	3 5 0	62 14 0	63 5 0	....	17 10 0
	Stranorlar	R. M'Farlane	75	65 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	71 0 0	71 0 0	30 0 0	32 10 0

Home Mission Account for year ending 30th June, 1876.

Dr.			
To Balance on hand, 1st July, 1875	£55	6	7
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	16	13	4
" Interest on the Scott Bequest ...	10	0	0
" " other Bequests invested ..	9	9	8
" Annuity bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Clarke ...	2	0	0
" Bailliesmills ...	4	0	0
" Do. Juv. Miss. Assoc. ...	6	0	0
" Do. Bequest of Mr. Henry Archer ...	4	0	0
" Ballenon ..	5	0	0
" Ballibay ..	6	5	0
" Do., Donation, Mr. Thomas Henry, Monaghan	7	10	0
" Ballyclare ..	6	10	0
" Ballylaggan ...	5	13	0
" Do. Collected by Miss Cathcart ...	1	0	0
" Belfast ...	6	15	3
" Do. Juv. Miss. Assoc. ..	40	0	0
" Bready ..	7	12	0
" Bushmills ..	2	15	0
" Cloughmills ..	0	14	0
" Do. Mrs. W. Christie ...	0	6	0
" Coleraine ...	3	19	3
" Convoy ..	2	1	0
" Dervock and Ballymoney ..	7	0	0
" Do. Ballymoney Society..	0	12	0
" Drimbo'g ..	4	10	5
" Do. Bequest of late Mr. James M'Closkey ...	0	10	0
" Do. Donation of Mrs. Graham ...	0	2	6
" Do. Donation of Mr. James Richmond ...	0	2	6
" Dromara ..	6	2	7
" Dromore ..	1	3	0
" Dublin ..	1	0	0
" Fairview ...	3	6	4
" Faughan ..	5	7	6
" Garvagh ..	4	0	0
" Grange ..	2	0	0
" Do. Bequest of Mr. H. Hamilton ..	0	10	0
" Kellswater ..	9	0	0
" Do. Ballymena Society Box	1	0	0
" Do. Antrim Society Box..	0	7	6
" Killinchy ..	4	0	0
" Kilraughts ..	6	4	3
" Knockbracken ...	7	10	0
" Larne ..	1	0	0
" Limavady ...	5	4	0
" Liverpool ...	2	12	0
" Londonderry ..	10	2	10
" Loughbrickland ..	2	4	7
" Magherafelt ...	2	0	0
" Mulvin ...	2	3	6
" " Society Box ...	1	0	8
" " Aldobill Society Box ..	0	15	0
" " Miss Adams's Donation ..	1	0	0
" Newtownards ...	2	8	2
" Newry ..	1	0	0
	£299	10	9

Dr. Brought forward,	£299	10	9
To Rathfriland ...	5	0	0
" " Juv. Mis. Society ...	1	0	0
" Ringrash ...	1	14	0
" Stranorlar ...	2	5	0
" Do. Sabbath-school Mission Box ...	0	15	0
" Do. Rev. R. A. M'Farlane	1	0	0
" An Old Debt ...	0	12	0
" Donation, Mr. R. Reid, Loughgall ..	1	0	0
" St. John. N.B. ...	2	10	0
" Barnesville ..	3	0	0
" Donation of Rev. Dr. Martin..	1	10	0
	£319	16	9

Cr.			
By Ballyclare ..	£20	0	0
" Ballylane ..	7	10	0
" Bushmills ..	5	0	0
" Cloughmills ...	5	0	0
" Dromore ..	5	0	0
" Fairview ...	20	0	0
" Grange ...	20	0	0
" Killinchy ...	32	10	0
" Larne ..	10	0	0
" Lisdonnan ..	6	0	0
" Liverpool ...	50	0	0
" Magherafelt ...	10	0	0
" Mulvin ..	5	0	0
" Newtownards ...	15	0	0
" Stranorlar ..	30	0	0
" Printing Report in *Covenanter*	2	10	0
" Travelling and Secretary's Expenses ..	3	3	10
" Clerk of Commission ...	1	0	0
" Interest on Investments to increase capital to £200 ..	5	16	8
" Invested Bequest of Mr. H. Hamilton ..	0	10	0
" Do. Mr. James M'Closkey	0	10	0
" Do. Mr. Henry Archer ..	4	0	0
" Balance in Treasurer's hands ..	61	6	3
	£319	16	9

SYRIAN MISSION.

Dr. *Treasurer's Account for the year ending June, 1876.* *Cr.*

RECEIPTS.			
Balance in hands of present Treasurer* ..	£1	10	4
Donation of Aged Widow ..	0	5	0
Mrs Hurst, Manchester, ann. sub.	5	0	0
Mr. James Stewart, elder, Castledawson, legacy of a child ..	0	10	0
CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS:			
Ballyclare ...	2	2	1
Fairview ...	1	15	6
Ballyclabber ..	3	14	10
Drimbolg ...	2	13	0
Grange ..	0	18	7
Stranorlar ..	1	15	0
Kilraughts ..	4	14	6
Killinchy ..	2	10	0
Ballylaggan—Collection ..	9	13	0
Friend to Missions ...	0	10	0
Miss N. Cathcart ..	1	0	0
Creevagh ...	9	4	8
Bready ..	4	1	9
Dervock and Ballymoney ...	9	6	0
Bailiesmill ..	2	5	0
Loughbrickland ..	1	10	0
Larne ..	1	0	0
Garvagh ...	1	10	0
Donegal Fellowship Meeting ..	2	10	0
Rathfriland ..	6	0	6
Belfast—Collection ..	7	7	4
Juvenile Miss. Association ..	5	0	0
Newtownards ...	2	3	0
Ballenon ..	3	0	0
Matthew vi. 3, Londonderry ..	3	0	0
Knockbracken—Collection ..	8	10	0
Interest on Mr. Musgrave's don.	3	0	0
Kellswater ..	7	0	0
Dublin ...	0	18	10
Ballylane ...	1	10	0
Dromore ...	1	5	0
Newtownlimavady ..	3	10	9
Dromara ..	3	6	7
Newry ..	2	10	0
Londonderry ..	7	0	0
St. John, New Brunswick ..	5	0	0
Barnesville, N.B. ..	3	0	0
Legacy of the late Joseph Clarke, Waterside, Derry ...	2	0	0
Legacy of the late Henry Archer, Toughblane ..	4	0	0
Interest on Scott's Bequest ..	2	10	0
Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	16	13	4
Rev. Dr. Martin, Syria, Donation ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Patterson, Derryboy, Donation	0	10	0
Interest on money lodged in Building Society ..	2	9	7
	£176	4	2
Balance received from the Executors of the late Mr. Clugston..	107	13	1
	£283	17	3

DISBURSEMENTS.			
Remitted Dr. Martin, half-year's Salary—sent January 1st ..	£75	0	0
Additional—Increased Salary from April 22nd to 1st July, 1875 ..	6	3	2
Paid proportion of additional expenses of Deputation to London	5	0	0
Printing Annual Report in the *Covenanter* ...	2	10	0
Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
Expenses of members attending two meetings of Commission ..	1	19	8
Expenses of Special Meeting of Joint Mission Committee ..	1	1	6
Postages, Circulars, &c. ..	0	10	6
Remitted Dr. Martin, 2nd half-year's Salary, July 1st ..	75	0	0
Paid Executors of the late Mr. Clugston, money returned by Dr. Martin, on account of Baliesmill	0	9	0
	£168	13	10
	283	17	3
Balance on hand ..£115	3	5	

Account for Syrian Mission Schools for the year ending June 1, 1876.

Dr.

Balance paid by Executors of the late Mr. Clugston ..£49	9	3	
Creevagh Congregation—Collected by Miss. Association ..	10	0	0
Bailiesmill Congregation, for educating one Pupil ..	10	0	0
COLLECTED BY REV. R. M FARLANE:			
Miss King, Donegal; Mrs. Brigham, Miss Brigham, Mr. S. Laird, Ballybofey; Mr. R. A. Cunningham, Miss Adams, and Rev. R. A. M'Farland, £1 each; Mr. R. Watson, Mulvin, 10s; Mr. John Ker, 4s ..	7	14	0
Knockbracken Ladies' Miss. Asso., £25 0s 5d; Donation of Mr. Jas. Meharg, 3rd payment, £10; Mrs. Haslett, thankoffering, £2 10s..	37	10	5
Geelong Congregation, Australia—Collected by the Young ..	11	5	0
Mr. Henry Dougan, Ballylane Congregation, for one Pupil ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Houston, Mangonui, New Zealand, thankoffering ...	0	10	0
Legacy of Mr. J. Clarke for Jew. Mis.	1	0	0
	£137	8	8
Received from Kilraughts Congregation, for the education of a native convert in Syria for the ministry (this was handed to the Trustees of Synod to be invested) ..	10	0	0
Cr.—Paid Trustees of Synod 1 year's subscription of Kilraughts Congregation for education of a convert in Syria for the ministry, which was in the hands of the late Treasurer, £10 10s; remitted Dr. Martin, for schools in Antioch and Latakia, £87 0s 0d ..	97	10	0
Balance on hand ..£39	18	8	

* The balance mentioned in last Annual Report was £11 10s 4d, but of this £10 were taken for the Syrian School Fund, to pay the second instalment of Mr. Meharg's donation, which was to be remitted annually, and for which the balance in the hands of the late Treasurer was not then available.

Hall and Synod Fund in Account with the Secretary, 1875-76.

Dr.	Supp. Coll. £ s. d.	Ordinary. £ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year's account ..		6 6 9	By the Professors ...	70 0 0
" Congregational Collections, viz :—			" Irish Missions, Repayment of Loan ...	20 0 0
" Bailiesmills ..	1 5 0	1 5 0	" Printing Report ...	2 10 0
" Ballenon ..		1 11 0	" Travelling Expenses, Com. Sup., Examination of Mr. Neill ...	1 5 5
" Ballybay ..	3 3 3	2 6 9	" Proportion Travelling Expenses, Commission in November ..	0 19 6
" Ballyclare ..	1 14 10	1 16 7	" Propor ion Travelling Expenses, Commission in March ...	1 0 2
" Ballylaggan ...		2 17 0	" Travelling Expenses, Commission in Convoy case—four meetings ...	11 15 6
" Ballylane ..			" Clerk of Synod ..	10 0 0
" Barnesville, N.B. ..			" Clerk of Commission ..	1 0 0
" Belfast ..		5 7 5	" Travelling Expenses, Deputation to Scotland ..	3 0 0
" Bready ..	2 1 7	3 12 1	" Circulars, Postages, &c. ..	0 17 4
" Cloughmills ..			" Binding Volume of Minutes in duplicate ..	0 3 0
" Coleraine ...	2 6 8	2 6 0	" Balance to new account ..	5 15 1
" Convoy ...	2 0 0	1 5 0		
" Cornwallis, N.S. ..				
" Dervock and Ballymoney	3 0 0	4 10 0		
" Donegal ..	1 0 0	1 10 0		
" Drimbolg ..	1 0 0	1 10 0		
" Dromara ...	3 4 7	3 0 0		
" Dromore ..		0 18 8		
" Dublin ..	0 12 6	0 19 8		
" Fairview ..		1 0 0		
" Faughan ..		3 15 2		
" Garvagh ...		1 0 0		
" Grange ..	0 9 10	0 17 0		
" Kellswater ..		6 10 6		
" Killinchy ..	1 0 0	1 10 0		
" Kilraughts ..		2 17 3		
" Knockbracken ..	2 10 0	6 0 0		
" Larne ..	0 13 0	0 14 6		
" Limavady ..	2 10 5	3 7 1		
" Lisdonnan ..				
" Liverpool ..				
" Londonderry ..	4 18 6	4 19 1		
" Loughbrickland ..	2 0 0	1 12 0		
" Magherafelt ..				
" Mulvin ...	1 3 0	1 1 3		
" Newry ..	1 0 0	1 0 0		
" Newtownards ..		0 16 4		
" Rathfriland ...		3 5 0		
" Ringrash ..		1 9 6		
" St. John, N.B. ..				
" Stranorlar ..	1 3 9	1 12 6		
" Wilmot, N.S. ...				
To Bequest of Henry Hamilton, Grange ..		0 10 0		
To Bequest of Joseph Clarke		1 0 0		
To Interest on Mr. Morrow's Legacy ..		2 10 0		
To Donation of Dr. Martin, Syria ...		1 0 0		
To total Supplemental Collection ..		38 10 11		
		£128 6 0		£128 6 0

Irish Mission Account in connection with Dublin Congregation.

From 1st July, 1875, till 1st July, 1876.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of last year's Account ..	104	1	2	By part payment of 19 days' preaching at Dublin ..	22	16	0
,, Dr. Martin's (Latakia) Subscription ..	1	0	0	,, Mr. T. Dick for one day before last Synod, but not returned till after settlement of Accounts	1	0	0
,, Interest ..	3	0	0	,, Printing Reports ..	2	19	0
				,, Nov. Commission Expenses ..	0	19	6
				,, March do. ..	1	0	2
				,, Balance	79	15	6
	£108	1	2		£108	1	2

Account of Publication Fund, 1875-76.

Dr.

To Balance on hand at last statement £41 13 8½

Cr.

By Printing 1000 "Appeal, &c."	£1	17	6		
" Printing and Binding 750 Copies of Testimony ..	36	10	9		
" Printing 60 Order of Business	0	3	6		
" Printing 100 Report on Union	0	18	6		
" Postages, &c.	0	0	5	— £39	0 8
To balance to new Account				£2	13 0½

July, 1876.

R. NEVIN.

Colonial Mission Account for the Year ending 30th June, 1876.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To balance as per last report	25	3	6½
,, Bailiesmills ..	2	0	0
,, Ballybay ..	3	15	8
,, Belfast ..	5	18	0
,, Ballylaggan (including £1 from Mr. N. Blair..	4	12	0
,, Ballymoney and Dervock	7	5	0
,, Barnesville, N.B. ..	5	0	0
,, Ballenon ..	2	2	6
,, Ballyclare ..	2	0	0
,, Ballylane ..	2	12	6
,, Bready ..	4	1	3
,, Coleraine ..	3	3	11
,, Cloughmills ..	0	14	6
,, Cornwallis, N.S. (2) ..	6	1	0
,, Convoy ..			
,, Drimbolg ..	2	3	6
,, Dromore ..	1	0	8
,, Dromara ..	3	3	0
,, Donegal ..	2	0	0
,, Dublin ..			
,, Fairview ..	0	17	0
,, Faughan ..	3	14	0
,, Garvagh ..	1	0	0
,, Grange ..	1	3	0
,, Horton, N S. ..			
,, Kellswater ..	5	10	0
,, Killinchy ..	1	10	0
,, Kilraughts ..	6	3	0
,, Knockbracken ..	7	0	0
,, Larne ..	1	4	4
,, Limavady ..	4	0	0
,, Londonderry ..			
,, Loughbrickland ..	1	17	1
,, Mulvin ..	1	9	0
,, Magherafelt ..			
,, Newry ..	1	0	0
,, Newtownards ..	0	16	8
,, Rathfriland (including £2 from Juv. Miss. Assoc.)	6	10	5
,, Stranorlar ..	1	14	6
,, St. John, N.B. ..	3	1	2
,, Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	16	13	4
,, Interest on Scott's Bequest	5	0	0
,, Belfast Miss. Assoc. ..	16	0	0
,, Dr. Martin's Subscription	1	0	0
,, "Old debt" ..	1	10	0
,, Wilmot, N.S. ..	3	0	0
,, Faughan (Collection for 1875) ..	3	4	0
	£177	14	6½

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Rev. A. M. Moore's Life Policy ..	6	2	6
,, Proportion of Travelling Expenses to Commissions, Nov. and March	1	19	8
,, Printing Reports in Aug. *Covenanter* ..	2	10	0
,, Incidental Expenses ..	2	0	0
,, Periodicals ..	2	2	6
,, Mr. Somerville's Annuity	10	0	0
,, Mr. Stavely's ditto ..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Stewart's ditto ..	30	0	0
,, Mr. Lawson's ditto ..	30	0	0
,, Mr. Moore's donation ..	20	0	0
,, Mr. Stewart's donation..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Stavely's donation..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Lawson's donation..	10	0	0
,, Mr. Somerville's donation	10	0	0
,, Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
,, Balance on hand, 1st July, 1876 ..	21	19	10½
	£177	14	6½

General Financial Statement.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Balance at Synod, 1875	...£2634	14	0	By Rev. Saml. Simms	.. 50	0	0
Interest for year	.. 122	14	9	" Rev. James P. Sweeney	.. 50	0	0
				" Balance of interest carried to next year	.. 22	14	9
				" Balance on hand at this date	..2634	14	0
	£2757	8	9		£2757	8	9

THE HENRY DONATION.

Balance at Synod, 1875	...£1000	0	0	Paid to Home Mission	... £16	13	4
Interest for Year	... 50	0	0	" Colonial Mission	... 16	13	4
				" Foreign & Jewish Mission	.. 16	13	4
				Balance on hand at this date	...1000	0	0
	£1050	0	0		£1050	0	0

BICENTENARY FUND.

Balance at Synod, 1875	...£602	18	11	Balance on hand at this date	.. £626	11	0
Interest for year	.. 23	12	1				
	£626	11	0		£626	11	0

EDUCATION FUND.

Balance at Synod, 1875	..£603	14	9	Paid Grant to Theological Hall Library	..£15	0	0
Instalment (with interest) from T. G. Houston, Esq.	.. 10	9	9	Balance on hand at this date	..622	17	3
Interest for year	.. 23	12	9				
	£637	17	3		£637	17	3

AUSTRALIAN MISSION FUND.

Balance at Synod, 1875	...£258	0	0	Balance on hand at this date	..£268	8	0
Interest for year	.. 10	8	0				
	£268	8	0		£268	8	0

THE SCOTT BEQUEST.

Balance at Synod, 1875	...£221	4	2	Paid to Home Mission	.. £10	0	0
Cash from Mr. Nevin	... 62	16	11	" Colonial Mission	... 5	0	0
Loan to Home Mission restored	... 121	6	8	" Foreign Mission	.. 5	0	0
Interest for year	... 11	12	3	Balance on hand at this date	.. 400	0	0
	£420	0	0		£420	0	0

MR. JOSEPH HENRY'S BEQUEST.

Balance at Synod, 1875	..£101	15	3	Balance on hand at this date	..£105	17	0
Interest till date	.. 4	1	9				
	..£105	17	0		£105	17	0

THE MORROW LEGACY.

				Balance on hand at this date	...£50	0	0

HOME MISSION FUND.

				Invested capital at this date	...£200	0	0

THE MUSGRAVE DONATION.

Cash from Mr. David Musgrave	...£100	0	0	Foreign Mission	.. £3	0	0
Interest till date	... 3	0	0	Balance on hand at this date	...100	0	0
	£103	0	0		£103	0	0

SUMMARY.

Balance at credit of Aged Ministers' Fund	..£2657	8	9	Mortgages	..£3635	19	0
The Henry Donation	... 1000	0	0	Bonds	.. 2162	0	0
Bicentenary Fund	... 626	11	0	Building Society Investment	.. 50	0	0
Education Fund	.. 622	17	3	Balance in Treasurer's hand and in Bank	... 183	2	3
Australian Mission Fund	.. 268	8	0				
The Scott Bequest	.. 400	0	0				
Mr. Joseph Henry's Bequest	.. 105	17	0				
The Morrow Legacy	... 50	0	0				
Home Mission Fund	... 200	0	0				
The Musgrave Donation	.. 100	0	0				
	£6031	2	0		£6031	2	0

Belfast, 31st May, 1876. JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, Treasurer.

We have examined this Financial Statement, with the Vouchers and Securities, and find all to be correct.

Belfast, 14th June, 1876. JAMES REYNOLDS. JOHN POTTS.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of North America.

DEAR BRETHREN—About the time our last letter to you was despatched we were called to mourn the removal of a beloved brother and fellow-labourer in the ministry of the Gospel. On the 28th of April, 1875, the Rev. Hutchinson M'Fadden, pastor of Ballylane, in the county Armagh, who bore a name highly honoured by a former generation in our Zion, was taken from us by death, in the 63rd year of his age and 32nd of his ministry. It is comforting to know that his latter end was peace, and we have no doubt that what was loss to us was great gain to him. Earnest and faithful, possessed of good natural abilities and great perseverance, he would certainly have taken a more conspicuous position but that he had to contend all his life with a rather infirm state of bodily health.

On the other hand, we have had cause of gratitude to the glorious Head of the Church in the accession of several young brethren to our ministerial ranks. Instead of fathers who have gone to their rest God is giving to us sons. On the 1st of July the Rev. W. J. Maxwell, M.A., who had demitted the charge of Limavady congregrtion, was installed in Liverpool. The Rev. William Dick, M.A., was ordained at Limavady on the 9th of June. On the 17th of February, in the present year, the Rev. Matthew Neill was ordained in the congregation of Faughan, as assistant and successor to the Rev. J. P. Sweeney, who from his advanced age and consequent infirmity, had been permitted to retire. And on the 15th of last month the Rev. William M'Knight was ordained to the pastorate of Ballylane congregation, rendered vacant by the demise of Mr. M'Fadden. All of these settlements have been most harmonious, and give promise of much usefulness.

What reason have we to bless God that the power of the Mohammedan persecutor has been held in check, so that the mission work in Syria has not been materially hindered. It is manifestly the Lord's doing. Let us give to Him the praise. And who can tell but that Turkey's present embarrassments may be overruled, in His wonder-working providence towards the opening of many a wide door and effectual for the truth in Jesus? It is a most interesting and delightful consideration that our Church should be honoured in being the instrument of carrying back a pure Gospel, after so many intervening centuries, to that ancient city from which Paul and Barnabas were sent forth on their missionary tours, and where the disciples of our Lord were first called Christians.

We are happy to think that the depression in business, from various causes, in your highly-favoured country is beginning to pass away, and that there are symptoms of returning prosperity. Surely

events that are transpiring from day to day ought to convince all men of intelligence, who are not downright infidels, that the purely secular theory of government, if fully carried out in practice, can only bring national shame, disaster, and ruin—that the righteousness derived from a Scriptural Christianity is that which alone exalteth a nation—and that the nation and kingdom that will not serve Zion shall perish. The great Centennial Exhibition will, doubtless, attract multitudes from other countries to your shores, and may be the occasion of much ungodliness. We hope and pray that the better counsels of those who would keep the gates closed on the Lord's day may prevail over all infidel and secularistic clamours.

We congratulate you on the success granted to the labours of your agents amongst the coloured race, and on the flourishing condition of your Theological Seminary and Literary Institution. We envy you, though in no evil sense. We had not a single student in our Theological Hall during the past winter. But we trust it will not be long so, and that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into His harvest.

With earnest prayers for your spiritual prosperity, we remain, dear brethren, yours in Christ.

On behalf of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland,

JOSEPH FRAZER HURST, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

Londonderry, 27th April, 1876.

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

Allegheny City, Pa., May 29, 1876.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

DEAR BRETHREN—Your letter of the 27th ult. was read in our hearing on the first business day of our present session. We rejoice in the continued peace and prosperity of the Church in Ireland, and hail you highly favoured of the Lord. The Lord be with you. We sympathize with you in the loss you have sustained by the death of the Rev. Hutchinson M'Fadden, but rejoice to know that while God is taking the fathers to himself He is raising up a generation still to hold aloft the standard of a Covenanted Reformation.

God has been very kind to us as a Church in sparing the lives of our ministers and in enabling nearly all of them to continue their labours in the Master's service. We mourn the death of but one removed during the past year. That one was well known to the most of you; we mean the Rev. John Newell, D.D., who died, after a brief illness, September 20, 1875. Since the return of Dr. Newell from Ireland he was engaged for the most part in teaching,

and so was prevented from attending our Church courts as frequently as we desired; those, however, best acquainted with him testify that he was a man worthy to be loved, because of his Christian character and his many excellent qualifications as a man and as a minister. While mourning the loss of one, we have to record the Lord's goodness to us in the increase of our ministry. Four young men have been ordained and installed as pastors since our last meeting. Besides these, eight have been licensed to preach the Gospel. Thus God is answering our prayers, and sending labourers into the harvest.

Our present session of Synod is one of unusual interest, partly because of the presence of a commission from Scotland, consisting of Rev. John M'Donald and Elder John M'Donald. We have been greatly pleased to receive the greetings of the Church in Scotland by this commission, and, while we sympathize with our brethren in that land in view of their trials, we rejoice in their noble contendings for truth, and regard it as a worthy example for us and our posterity to follow, rejoice that, though cast down, they are not destroyed, and trust the time will soon come when a little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation. That which gives special interest to this meeting is the presence of the Rev. Joseph Beattie, our senior missionary to Syria, who also presides over the deliberations of this Synod. Mr. Beattie returns for the restoration of his health, which has been impaired by his arduous labours in the mission field. We are glad to say that the beneficial effects of rest and change of climate are already seen.

From the report of the Board of Foreign Missions it appears that the interest of the Church in this work is in no way abated. Notwithstanding the financial difficulties with which we have had to contend, our contributions have reached nearly 11,000 dols. during the year. There are now about seventy native converts to the faith of Christ in the mission stations under the care of our missionaries. Besides these, there are more than three hundred boys and girls in the mission school. New mission buildings are being erected and old ones enlarged and improved, and still the accommodations are not sufficient for all who might be gathered into the schools. We believe we only see the first fruits of a rich and abundant harvest. Our corps of female teachers is increased by the addition of Miss Mattie R. Wylie. When we contemplate all that has been done in our Foreign Mission field we can only say "What hath God wrought!"

While the Foreign Mission work is the great work of the Church, commanding the largest contributions and the deepest sympathy of the people, the work of domestic missions is not neglected. The Central Board of Missions has eight stations under its care, and four missionaries have accepted appointments, and either have

entered or expect soon to enter on their work. We have good reason to believe that, under the fostering care of Synod, some of these stations will ere long become self supporting congregations.

The same board also has the management of our mission at Selma, Ala., among the coloured people. We have one ordained minister, one licentiate, and three teachers at Selma now, all of African descent; also a congregation of twenty members, and a school of about one hundred and fifty scholars. The work is constantly increasing in the hands of our missionaries. The mission has been visited by some of our brethren in the ministry and eldership during the past year, all of whom have expressed their high gratification and great satisfaction with the work of our missionaries.

We were sorry to learn that there were no students in your Theological Hall during the past year, and hope that ere long there will be found those who are willing to consecrate themselves to Christ's service in the work of the ministry, and to say "Here am I, send me." We are glad to be able to say that our Theological Seminary continues to prosper. The number of students in attendance during the session just closed was twenty, and the examinations gave evidence that they were prosecuting their studies with diligence and success.

Our Literary Institution has been made to feel the financial depression, as is evidenced by a decrease in the number of its students and a corresponding decrease in the income; yet in this regard it has not suffered more proportionately than other similar institutions. The corps of professors remains undiminished, and all are faithfully prosecuting their work.

The National Reform work is steadily gaining ground. The assaults of infidels and some nominal Christians on the Sabbath and on the use of the Bible in our public schools are opening the eyes of many to the necessity of having a sure basis on which to rest our Christian usages. Moved by these and other considerations, many able and earnest Christians have come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. We believe the promises, and hence are encouraged to work and pray for the hastening of that time when this nation shall be brought into subjection to Jesus Christ.

We need not enter into details with reference to the religious movement which has been in progress for months in our land. With the agencies employed and the mode of operation pursued you are familiar. It is too soon to judge of results. While lamenting the irregularities connected with the movement, we trust it will be followed by the conversion of many souls. Our attendance at this meeting of Synod is 150 members, being the largest we have ever had except in the year of Covenanting.

Brethren, in conclusion, our hearts' desire and prayer to God for you all is that your souls may be in health and prosper, even as you prosper in external things. We remain, dear brethren, yours in Covenant bonds.

Signed on behalf of the Synod in the United States,

W. MILROY, *Chairman.*